FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

8 NOVEMBER 1983

Syria

Military Mobilization — Syria has decided to call up its reserves, an official source announced in a statement reported by Damascus television. Call-up messages broadcast by Damascus radio signaled the start of a general mobilization while the Armed Forces were placed on a state of alert, according to AFP and Radio Monte Carlo. Meanwhile, commentaries on Damascus radio and television warned of an imminent U.S. military operation directed against Syria, citing the U.S. military buildup in the eastern Mediterranean as proof of American intentions. Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas briefed the Cabinet on the military situation and stressed Syria's ability to repulse "any aggression, regardless of its nature," according to the radio. It also noted that Israel has ordered a large mobilization of IDF reserves, although *THE JERUSALEM POST* said Israel has already notified Syria of its planned military exercise and conveyed assurances that no attack is planned. UN observers said Syrian forces on the Golan Heights were behaving normally, according to Jerusalem radio, and one UN officer described *MA'ARIV's report that Syrian soldiers have been clearing* minefields as "nonsense."

The Libyan People's Foreign Liaison Bureau, in a statement broadcast by Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio, declared that Libya will assist Syria with all its capabilities if the latter is subjected to "aggression" by the United States and its allies. The Libyan statement also appealed to the other Arab states to support Syria militarily.

Al-Asad-Andreotti Meeting — During talks with Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, President Hafiz al-Asad "deplored what is happening among the Palestinian brothers," adding that Syria has exerted "great efforts" to help the Palestinians solve their differences but that "a well-known side has complicated and escalated matters," Damascus radio reported. While Syria remains committed to the Palestinian issue, it distinguishes between a stand on an issue and one on individuals, Al-Asad added. The Syrian leader also voiced satisfaction over the results of the first round of the Lebanese National Dialogue Conference in Geneva and warned Andreotti that an overly hasty withdrawal of Italian troops from Lebanon might prove "harmful," according to ANSA.

PLO Affairs

North Lebanon Situation — Forces loyal to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat withdrew heavy weapons from the Al-Baddawi camp into Tripoli in the face of continuing attacks around the camp, an advance by dissident forces, and continuing artillery and rocket barrages, according to Beirut radio. Meanwhile, a Cypriot Government statement reported by the Nicosia publication *O FILELEVTHEROS* announced that Cyprus would provide transit facilities for any Palestinian fighter or refugee fleeing Tripoli.

Palestinian Radio — The dissident-controlled radio first heard as an unidentified station using the frequency formerly used by North Lebanon Voice of Palestine radio announced that it is broadcasting from that radio's Turbul Mountain transmitting station, which dissident forces captured from pro-'Arafat forces.

Palestinian Statements on Fighting — Fatah dissident leader Colonel Sa'id Musa Muragha called for talks with 'Arafat, stating that the dissidents "do not want to prosecute 'Arafat and expel him from Tripoli," Damascus radio reported. The radio also reported a statement by the general command of the dissident forces reiterating that pro-'Arafat forces in the northern Lebanon refugee camps started the battle by opening fire on dissident forces. In the wake of "recurrent provocations," the dissidents were "forced" to reply in order to "silence the sources of fire" and "wipe out its perpetrators." Meanwhile, a responsible dissident source cited by the radio stated that the dissident forces "will spare no effort to save the people" of Tripoli from the "sedition," adding that they had promised former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami and other Lebanese national forces they would confront "the sedition in the north."

Amman radio reported that Palestinian groups in Jordan, in a memorandum to Al-Asad via the Syrian Embassy in Amman, condemned the "massacres" perpetrated by the "Syrian and Libyan regimes." The report was denied by the embassy which said in a statement, cited by SANA, that a Palestinian delegation had visited the embassy and expressed understanding of the Syrian position but that no memorandum was submitted.

Contacts on Fighting — Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf met with a special Soviet envoy in Tunis and received a message from the Soviet leadership to 'Arafat, the Amman paper *AD-DUSTUR* reported. Meanwhile, the PLO envoy in Rome reported that at 'Arafat's behest he had presented a request for Pope John Paul II to intervene on behalf of the Palestinian people, according to AFP.

Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan went to Kuwait and then on to Doha to discuss the Palestinian issue with Gulf leaders who are attending the GCC summit conference, KUNA reported. During its 7 November session the summit held contacts with Arab leaders to discuss the need for quick action to stop the fighting in Lebanon, WAKH stated. WAKH said that a "high-level" delegation comprising representatives of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Tunisia, and Algeria will begin mediation attempts with a visit to Damascus on 8 November. In other contacts with Damascus, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, and the PDRY all sent high-level officials to relay messages to Al-Asad, according to Damascus, Algiers, and Aden radios.

Lebanon

Renewed Fighting — U.S. Marines and Lebanese Army soldiers exchanged fire with gunmen in the Beirut area and several cease-fire agreements failed to stop the fighting, according to Beirut radio. Marine positions at the airport came under shellfire and some shells also fell near U.S. warships, Voice of Lebanon radio said.

Further south, rival militias clashed in the Al-Kharrub region early on 8 November, the radio reported.

Southern Lebanon — Cities and villages in southern Lebanon adhered to the call for a general strike to protest Israeli practices and the closure of the crossing points, Beirut radio reported.

Iranian Protest — The Iranian Foreign Ministry blames the French forces in Lebanon for the recent attempt to blow up the Iranian Embassy in Beirut with a car-bomb, according to Tehran radio.

Political Developments — The Command Council of the Phalangist Lebanese Forces, in a statement broadcast by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon, blamed Syria for the recent bomb attacks on U.S., French, and Israeli forces and warned that attempts to reconsider the Lebanese-Israeli agreement will lead to the return of Syrian control over Lebanon. Earlier, in a statement broadcast by Beirut radio, 37 parliamentary deputies affirmed the Chamber of Deputies' "insistence on the implementation of the 17 May agreement and nondiscussion of its abrogation or freezing before a serious alternative becomes available" to secure Israel's withdrawal.

Iran-Iraq War

A communique broadcast by Tehran radio reported that Iranian forces in the northern zone captured several more heights, killing or wounding more than 800 Iraqis. A communique carried by Baghdad radio reported the attack, but said that Iraqi forces "destroyed" the Iranian forces involved, inflicting "heavy losses" in men and equipment.

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Further Materials on North Lebanon Situation

Baghdad PLO on Situation

JN071700 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1531 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Excerpts] Here is a report regarding the current military and political situation:

The Syrian and Libyan forces and the traitors from the dissidents — the Jibril men and Tariq al-Khadra's forces — have escalated their criminal artillery and rocket shelling of the Palestinian camps, particularly the Al-Baddawi camp near Tripoli. Reports from northern Lebanon say that missiles fell onthe camps at the rate of 50 missiles every minute. The 'Alma-Al-Fawwar axis witnessed fierce battles with various kinds of weapons. Our forces beat back a Syrian attempt to advance toward our positions today. The Syrian forces also attempted to advance along the Dayr 'Ammar axis. Clashes continued with the Syrian forces, which were supported by tanks in all the current battles, particularly on the Turbul Mountain axis.

The Syrian and Libyan regimes' forces again shelled the Tripoli refinery storage tanks, which are still in flames. Our forces destroyed two tanks and four rocket launchers belonging to the Libyan forces and the agents.

In a statement, the Palestinian revolution forces general command in northern Lebanon said that the Syrian and Libyan forces continued their intensive, concentrated shelling, using all sorts of artillery and rockets. They sent new armored columns along the Al-Fawwar, Dayr 'Ammar, and [name indistinct] axes. Despite the intense Syrian and Libyan fire, our forces beat back an attack on the Dayr 'Ammar, Al-Fawwar, and Turbul axes after 5 hours of fierce fighting.

According to reports in the Lebanese capital, the Syrian forces used artillery and rockets to shell Islamic Unification Movement positions in Tripoli, inflicting casualties among Lebanese citizens. The movement's forces answered this cowardly Syrian and Libyan aggression against the civilians.

On another level, a responsible Palestinian source said that the Syrian authorities have closed Brother Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat's] office and house, which was the main meeting place for the PLO Executive Committee and Central Council and the various PLO bodies and institutions. Syrian intelligence closed Abu 'Ammar's office and the 23 Center ['Arafat's Damascus headquarters] and sealed them with red wax. This measure was taken in the wake of the escalation of the Syrian political, military, and information campaign against the PLO.

In Tripoli, northern Lebanon, Brother Abu 'Ammar received a letter from the Soviet leaders dealing with the northern Lebanon situation, particularly the Syrian-Libyan aggression against our Palestinian people's camps and the Palestinian revolution's positions.

In Tunis, Brothers Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] and Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] met with a high-level Soviet delegation.

Withdrawal From Al-Barid

NC051810 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Nov 83

[Text] According to security information received from the north, the supporters of Yasir 'Arafat have begun withdrawing from Nahr al-Barid camp toward Al-Baddawi camp. A convoy of 18 trucks and a military jeep was seen carrying armed elements and heavy weapons from Al-Barid toward al-Baddawi.

Beirut Says Clashes Stop

NC081115 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Nov 83

[Text] Palestinian clashes in the north stopped at 0700 amid the internal and external contacts to end the fighting and make Tripoli a neutral city. Diplomatic sources expect Saudi King Fahd and Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, who are taking part in the Gulf Cooperation Council summit conference, to arrive in Damascus to ask Syria to intervene to put an immediate end to the battles raging in northern Lebanon.

Radio Takeover Claimed

[Editorial Report] Since 5 November 1983, a clandestine broadcaster which subsequently identified itself as "the voice of the Palestinian revolution, the voice of the Palestine Liberation Organization," has been observed carrying Arabic songs and well-known Palestinian revolutionary songs, operating on the mediumwave frequency of 1412 kilocycles. This frequency was previously used by the north Lebanon clandestine broadcaster "Voice of Palestine," which was last observed on 3 November.

The new broadcaster is maintaining the same broadcast schedule as the previous broadcaster — at 0500-0700 and 1730-1930 GMT.

At 0753 GMT on 8 November, the station carried the following: "Brothers, this radio transmits from Turbul. It is the radio which 'Arafat's mercenaries have left behind. We are broadcasting by the same means and on the same equipment. However, the old course has fallen and a new course has sprouted and blossomed. It is the course of the revolutionaries who say nothing before they act and who confirm facts after action is taken."

Fatah Officials Meeting

LD072229 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2045 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Tunis, 7 Nov (KUNA) — Fatah's officials accredited to Arab and foreign countries and officials of its political, military, and other organizations continued this evening meetings which they had started this morning in Banzart, in north Tunisia, to discuss the measures to be taken to confront developments in northern Lebanon. Two hundred persons are taking part under Faruq Qaddumi, secretary of the Fatah Central Committee.

Qaddumi described in a speech at the beginning of the first session the current stage through which Fatah is passing as "a testing stage." He said, addressing the meeting, "the fate of

Fatah depends on you and the redoubled efforts which you excert at the Arab homeland level and the reconstruction and development of our organizational institutions and cells." Qaddumi confirmed the continuation of the armed struggle as a basic corner of the Palestinian struggle and said, "We must continue our armed struggle in a brilliant manner because it is the strong base for our political action in the future."

Qaddumi strongly attacked Syria and described it as "having primary responsibility for the massacres and the feeding of the conditions for the split, because the battles raged on its land and on land controlled by it, and it could have played a positive, substantial role to prevent infighting and to save the camps from destruction."

The participants sent a greeting of appreciation and pride to Yasir 'Arafat and Khalil al-Wazir, who are in Tripoli, and to Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid, who is in Damascus. In a statement issued tonight by the participants at the end of their second session, it was said to these three: "Your firm will to confront this ugly attack only confirms the firm revolutionary attitude which Fatah has adopted since its inception."

'Arafat 'Invites' Papal Intervention

NC071756 Paris AFP in English 1750 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Rome, Nov 7 (AFP) — Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has invited Pope John Paul II to intervene "with all his moral authority" on behalf of the Palestinian people who are "menaced by a new tragedy," the PLO representative here said today. "We have sought the pontiff's intervention for humanitarian and religious reasons," Nimr Hamad, a close friend of Mr. 'Arafat's, told AGENCE-FRANCE PRESSE.

Mr. 'Arafat is at the Al-Baddawi camp near Tripoli, North Lebanon, with the rest of the troops loyal to him.

"We hope for a positive reaction from the Vatican," Mr. Hamad said. "We are confident because the pope has always been close to the Palestinian people in the most critical moments." He added that he had presented Mr. 'Arafat's request to the Vatican yesterday after talking to Mr. 'Arafat on the telephone Saturday. The PLO representative said he had not spoken to Mr. 'Arafat since.

Fatah Representative Joins Uprising

JN071546 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar Sa'd, representative of the Palestine national liberation movement Fatah in Syria and Fatah Revolutionary Council member, has issued a statement in which he exposes the wrong practices of some members of the Fatah command and their supporters in various fields. He said: Despite the Fatah fighters' warnings against these practices, which constitute a clear deviation from Fatah's principles, aims, and regulations and a blatant flouting of its political programs and basic rules, there continues to be an adherence to the wrong path so that these practices spread within the PLO. The Palestine Charter has been neglected and the National Council's resolutions have been violated.

The statement said: As a result of this, a move within Fatah became necessary. Therefore, a protective movement took place within Fatah in May to rectify the Fatah path, remedy its illnesses, and carry out a democratic reform within the PLO. The movement's aims were to end corruption, deviation, and despotism in Fatah and the PLO.

From the very beginning of the protective movement, some persons in the Fatah command took a hostile stance toware it. Accusations were leveled against certain Palestinian and Arab sides holding them responsible for the movement. The six-member committee, which was formed from the PLO members under the PNC chairman, exerted tremendous efforts to heal the rift by democratic means. Several other Arab mediations also exerted their efforts to this effect. Then came the PLO Central Council delegation which presented its well known memorandum that was met with Palestinian and Arab acclaim because the delegation represented Palestinian legitimacy. However, the insistence on the previous stands prevented any kind of results despite the new facts which accumulated in the Arab and Palestinian arenas and despite the spilling of much blood.

The statement said: New after almost 4 months, and after many people despaired and lost hope of reaching a solution that will save the Fatah movement and the PLO from the present situation, which is the result of the current practices; in view of the dirty imperialist-Zionist plot against our nation and the entire Arab homeland; and because of the strange circumstances where the Palestinian rifles are being directed at ourselves instead of the enemy, I announce my support for the Fatah uprising with all my resources and all the means available to me. I also support the PLO Central Council's memorandum and I consider it a beginning of a Fatah agreement to solve the crisis within the movement from the organizational and political viewpoints. However, all issues should be decided during the next, fifth, general congress. A firm political stand should be defined, a stand based on the PNC and the Fatah program concerning all of the current initatives and political moves that aim to liquidate the Palestinian cause. Fatah unity should be stressed and (?disputes) and dissension be stopped.

The statement also said: Our struggle and behavior during the previous period should be evaluated and the negative and positive aspects should be defined. The Fatah insttitutions and bodies should be reorganized and plans should be prepared with the aim of developing our work int he occupied land from the political, military, and economic points of view. Priority must always be given to drawing up plans and allocating funds for the occupied homeland and supporting our people's steadfastness there. We should work toward realizing our people's unity by mobilizing and organizing them and benefiting from their capabilities. The Palestinian revolution should be unified in all the military, financial, and informational fields.

Abu 'Ammar Sa'd stressed the need for a firm stand in support of the struggling Arab masses and their liberation forces, particularly in fraternal Lebanon, considering the Palestinian revolution to be an ally rather than an alternative to them. Good relations should be established with the progressive and patriotic Arab countries, and sincere, fraternal, and responsible cooperation must be established with all of the Palestinian revolution's factions and the independent Palestinian patriotic personages in order to create a suitable atmosphere for PLO democratic reform.

The PNC resolution on solidarity between the Palestinian and Syrian arab peoples should be stressed and implemented. This solidarity should be promoted because the Syrian people, party, and government have been shouldering the burden of the Palestinian cause from the beginning. Syria stood by our revolution before and after its emergence, supporting our struggle morally, materially, and politically. Syria is bravely confronting the imperialist and Zionist attempts against our Arab nation, bearing the economic, military, and political responsibilities which result from this confrontation. Syria has been challenging plots, confronting them, and realizing strategic transformations in the region in favor of the Arab nation.

Concluding his statement, Abu 'Ammar Sa'd stressed the continuous alliance with the world freedom forces and affirmed the need for their promotion and the need for establishing the best relations possible with the socialist bloc states led by the USSR.

Al-'Asifah Forces on Fighting

JN072042 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1850 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus, 7 Nov (SANA) — WAFA today carried a statement issued by the Al-'Asifah forces general command. The following is the text of the statement:

For more than 3 days, the Al-'Asifah forces belonging to the Fatah movement have been confronting the results of the sedition that is being concocted by the forces loyal to 'Arafat in the northern area. These forces opened fire their artillery and rocket launchers from within the refugee camps on our positions around Tripoli. Our forces did not respond to the sources of fire out of concern for spilling Palestinian and Lebanese blood and to protect property. However, the perpetrators of this sedition are carrying out their shelling from populated areas in the refugee camps and in Tripoli.

In the wake of these recurrent provocations, our forces were compelled to reply in order to silence the sources of fire belonging to the 'Arafatist forces and the forces that are conspiring with them and to end the sedition and wipe out its perpetrators.

The objective of this sedition is not only to expose the lives of the Palestinians and Lebanese to danger, but to undermine the unity of the Lebanese people in the militant city. This sedition also aims to strike at the Lebanese National Salvation Front and the Lebanese national and progressive forces in the city in view of their opposition to the Lebanese-Israeli agreement and their confrontation of the Camp David policy which 'Arafat adopted through his approval of the confederation plan and the authorization he gave to King Husayn to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinian people.

It is not surprising to see that the first supporters of Yasir 'Arafat are King Husayn and Husni Mubarak. They sent 'Arafat ships loaded with heavy weapons and supplied him with all types of aid because, according to Mubarak, 'Arafat is a moderate man.

On the basis of our feelings of responsibility, we in Fatah are careful about saving the lives of the civilian Palestinians and Lebanese. We are also eager to rob the designers and perpetrators of the sedition of the opportunity to play havoc with the sacred national cause.

We appeal to our Palestinian and Lebanese people to stand with us against corruption and those who sow curruption. we appeal to the people to stand against the deviationists and to expel them not only from the Nahr al-Barid and Al-Baddawi camps, but also from all of Tripoli so that normal life can be restored to the city. Revolution until victory!

Al-'Asifah Praises Tripoli Citizens

JN072228 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] A responsible source in the Al-'Asifah forces general command stated that the Al-'Asifah forces will spare no effort to save the people in Tripoli from the sedition that is being carried out by 'Arafat's clique. He added that the valiant city of Tripoli stood united behind the Higher Coordination Commission under [former Prime Minister] Rashid Karami. This has consolidated the Lebanese popular rejection of the contract of humiliation which the United States and Israel imposed on the Lebanese people. The voice of Tripoli and Zgharta has been loud in confronting the role the isolationist forces were supposed to play in the service of the Israeli scheme which aims at undermining the unity of the Lebanese people and territory.

The responsible source added: Tripoli had its say when the Lebanese National Salvation Front [NSF] announced that Tripoli is the capital of free men in Lebanon and that it will pursue the struggle with all the Lebanese and Arab patriotic forces — embodied in Syria — to foil the agreement and to allow the Lebanese people to assume their vanguard role and defeat U.S. and Zionist schemes. The source said: From a sense of responsibility and loyalty to this courageous city, the Al-'Asifah forces held a dialogue with Rashid Karami and all other Lebanese national forces and stressed to them that they will spare no effort to confront the sedition in the north. The Al-'Asafah forces also will not refuse any demand by the NSF brothers and will do its best to wipe out the results of the sedition. The responsible source appealed to the Lebanese and Palestinian people inthe north to unite in order to end this sedition and uproot it.

GCC Move, Al-Hasan Comments

LD072123 Kuwait KUNA in English 1841 GMT 7 Nov 83

[By Salih Nazzal]

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 7 (KUNA) — Two prominent Gulf leaders are likely to visit Damascus Tuesday as part of an extensive GCC effort to end the Palestinian Bloodshed in Tripoli and north Lebanon, Palestinian sources said. The sources told KUNA that the coming 24 hours would be decisive as to what is going on in Tripoli. The source added that in light of those efforts the two prominent Gulf leaders would pay a visit to Damascus Tuesday in an attempt to stop the Palestinian bloodletting in Tripoli.

Within the framework of achieving an effective Arab stand, member of the Fatah Central Committee Khalid al-Hasan left Kuwait Monday night for Qatar after a stop over here on his way from London and Tunis. Al-Hasan told KUNA at the airport that the aim of his visit to Doha is to brief leaders of the GCC on the true realities of the whole situation in order to work out an end to the fighting in Tripoli and bring about a halt to the problem with Syria. He added present developments in North Lebanon should take the Arab leaders immediately to Damascus so as to put an end to the bloodbath and to send symbolic Arab forces to achieve a disengagement between Syrian and Palestinian forces or adopt any other measure to stop the on going massacre. The Palestinian official referred to this respect to the call made by the PLO for an emergency Arab foreign minister conference to adopt decisive resolution toward that problem or to call for an immediate Arab summit as stipulated by the Arab league regulations. Al-Hasan recalled what Late Egyptian President Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir had done in July 1970 when he called for an emergency Arab summit which ended fighting in Jordan at that time.

On the possibility of PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat's departure from Tripoli he said first the fighting should ended and the problem resolved, after that 'Arafat can leave "because it is not reasonable for a leader to walk out and leave his forces alone in the battlefield." Al-Hasan praised "the people's concern with the massacre" and said "despite the atmosphere of repression and terrorism, the Arab people had expressed their rejection to the ongoing fighting and denounced the traitors who were exploited to liquidate their cause in a way that serves only the objectives of the American-Israeli policies for the region."

Answering a question on the possibility of reverting to underground action, Al-Hasan said "this kind of action had become a vital necessity regardless of what is going at present, particularly after the Arab military option in the conflict with the Zionist enemy had collapsed."

Abu Musa Urges Talks

JN080657 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 8 Nov 83

[Text] Tripoli — Fatah military commander Colonel Sa'id Musa, alias Abu Musa, has called for talks with Yasir 'Arafat so that all guns will be aimed at Israel. In a press statement reported by REUTER yesterday, Abu Musa said: We do not want to prosecute 'Arafat and expel him from Tripoli. We only invite him for a dialogue in order to carry out reforms. Instead of firing his guns at us, let him come to us and fire our guns at Israel.

Al-Hasan Meets Soviet Envoy

JN080836 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Nov 83 pp 1, 21

[Muhammad Abu Ghawsh dispatch]

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, yesterday contacted Hani al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee and 'Arafat's political adviser, who is currently in Amman. 'Arafat briefed Al-Hasan on the latest developments and moves as well as the situation in northern Lebanon. 'Arafat asked him to convey certain matters and points to the Soviet ambassador in Amman.

Al-Hasan told *AD-DUSTUR* that he immediately held a lengthy meeting with the Soviet ambassador to Jordan and conveyed to him what Brother Abu 'Ammar had informed him.

Asked about Abu Musa's [Sa'id Musa Muragha's] offer to negotiate with Abu 'Ammar, Al-Hasan said: We have been patient for 7 months during which the games of negotiations and slogans of reform were played. The Fatah Central Committee adopted a decision to dismiss Abu Musa and his companions. However, we are ready to negotiate with the Syrian leadership or its representatives in order to bring about a real cease-fire because we are eager to spare the life of the innocent civilians in northern Lebanon and alleviate their suffering.

He added that he contacted the French External Relations Ministry on the way to confronting the situation in northern Lebanon. He indicated that Arab and French efforts should be concerted at the UN Security Council and the General Assembly in order to safeguard the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Regarding the next Arab summit conference, he said: The least that can be requested from the Arab Gulf summit, which opened in Doha yesterday, is to fix an urgent date for the Arab summit. This summit must not be postponed until next month unless a real and acceptable cease-fire is reached.

On the Arab foreign ministers conference, he said that Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi contacted the French Government and began his contacts with the Arab governments to hold the foreign ministers conference in order to deal with the situation in northern Lebanon. He said that the Palestinians are impatiently awaiting the results of the Gulf summit, which is being held at a time when the Palestinian blood is being shed in northern Lebanon and in Nahr al-Barid and Al-Baddawi camps.

He added that the blood shed aroused the feelings of friendly France which moved on the Arab and international levels. The European group asked Greece to contact Damascus and protest the inhuman tragedies taking place in Tripoli. He called for taking a stand toward those who remain silent and refrain from adopting the necessary measures to alleviate the pains of the Palestinians. He indicated that the Palestinian blood being shed will loom large in the hearts of those who are shedding it. He added that the Fatah movement, whose actions have been characterized by balance and self-restraint throughout several years, is more capable than any other movement of defending the legitimacy of the Palestinian people and their institutions. He said Let all know that at this stage we do not distinguish between the one plotting through action and the one plotting through silence.

He said that Khalid al-Hasan was sent to Doha in order to be close to the Arab Gulf summit as envoy of the Fatah Central Committee.

PNC's Al-Fahum Interviewed

GF041550 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 3 Nov 83 p 8

[Interview with Khalid al-Fahum, speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], by *AL-WATAN* correspondent Sattar Jabbar in Damascus date not given]

[Excerpts] [Jabbar] In your capacity as the PNC speaker and being very knowledgeable about the Fatah crisis, what about the situation within Fatah? Are things still at a crossroads?

[Al-Fahum] Two issues on the Palestinian scene cannot be accepted. They are: the spliting of Fatah and the spliting of the PLO. As the speaker of the PNC, I firmly believe that Fatah's split will surely reflect on the PLO and will probably be a reason for its disappearance as the legitimate and sole representative of Palestinian people, which is the biggest accomplishment of the past 15 years of the Palestinian revolution. The PLO embodies the Palestinian character and identity of the Palestinian people.

Therefore, we cannot accept any split in Fatah or in the PLO. No doubt there are a great many differences in Fatah and this is known to all. However, this does not mean we must be hopeless and consider what is going on as insoluble. The efforts which have been made by the six-man committee stemming from the PLO Executive Committee and the 18-member committee stemming from the PLO Central Council should continue regardless of the difficulties that they are facing. I believe it is possible to reach a solution based on unity, on full implementation of the PNC resolutions and Fatah's decisions in its various congresses, and on full implementation of the movement's principles and the Palestine National Charter. At any rate, I can assert that the differences cannot be resolved except through Palestinian efforts alone, because only they are qualified to do so, bearing in mind that I prefer the solution to come from Fatah itself. But alas, to carry out this task means overcoming many difficulties.

[Jabbar]Some time ago, Abu Iyad[Salah Khalaf], in an interview with *AL-WATAN*, proposed a democratic divorce that would end the differences within Fatah. What do you think about this proposal?

[Al-Fahum] With regard to the divorce that Abu Iyad spoke about, it is rejected and we in Fatah cannot accept it.

[Jabbar] I asked you about the way to solve the crisis within Fatah, but you have not given me a satisfactory answer.

[Al-Fahum] As I have said, the solution must come through the Palestinian way and the Palestinian way has not succeeded in offering a solution so far. Therefore, I believe the solution can be achieved by convening a general conference for the Fatah movement during which its leadership will adopt the appropriate decisions on the basis of adhering to the principles and rules of the movement.

[Jabbar] So you support Abu Iyad's call to convene a general conference of the movement?

[Al-Fahum] All the brothers in Fatah, whether from the Central Committee or from the uprising, demand a Fatah conference, but they disagree on the structure of this conference.

They should agree among themselves on this matter because, not being a Fatah member, I don't know the form in which the conference is usually held.

[Jabbar] What is your information about the intentions and statements that discuss the possibility that 'Arafat may step down from the PLO leadership.

[Al-Fahum] To be honest, I contacted the brothers prior to the uprising more than once by virtue of the mediation process and on behalf of the PNC delegation. I was not informed of any official request that Brother Yasir 'Arafat be removed.

[Jabbar] During the current crisis and during 'Arafat's presence in Tripoli, there have been statements and remarks by some Jordanian and U.S. officials requesting 'Arafat to resume the dialogue with them on the basis of the Reagan initiative. What do you think of this?

[Al-Fahum] We, as was stated by more than an Arab summit, maintain that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative and we are not prepared to accept that someone else to share this role with us. Any talks with Jordan must take place on this basis and nothing more, and thus we say no to the confederation with Jordan prior to the establishment of the Palestinian state because any other thing would be contradict PNC resolutions.

[Jabbar] Some people accuse you of supporting all the claims of the opposition. How true is this?

[Al-Fahum] First, by virtue of my position as chairman of the PNC, I am supposed to be a factor of unification and not a factor of dissension on the basis that reforms and improvements are required. Hence, I support all the opinions that represent the thoughts of the PNC and the Palestine National Charter. This concerns me in the first place. And as for the demands of the brothers in the organizational and political reformatory movements, I believe these demands are reasonable and legitimate.

[Jabbar] How true are the reports about the existence of fraud in the Palestine National Fund?

[Al-Fahum] I am one of the people who demand financial reforms. There are many mistakes that are known to everyone in this regard. Money should not be spent without a decision from the bodies concerned.

[Jabbar] Some parties in Fatah, and particularly in the Central Committee, have contacts with the Egyptian regime. Some even say that these contacts are one of the main reasons for the disagreement between Syria and Fatah's leadership.

[Al-Fahum] We are with the Egyptian people. The most intimate relations bind us with them. But we disagree vigorously with the regime on Camp David, because this agreement leads to liquidating the Palestinian question, and any contacts with the regime while it continues to adhere to the Camp David accord is in violation with PNC resolutions. I'll say something to you. I have not lost hope that Egypt will relinquish Camp David and the Egyptian people have already done so. I affirm to you that the Egyptian regime will relinquish Camp David because it will be met by growing stubborness and more aggression from Israel. Therefore, Egypt will not maintain normal relations with the Zionist entity forever. And I wish to tell you that we shall be the happiest people of all when official Egypt relinquishes the Camp David accord.

PLF Official on 'Conspiracy'

JN042011 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 4 Nov 83

[Text] Brother Abu al-'Abbas, assistant secretary general of the Palestinian Liberation Front [PLF], has said that the reality behind what is taking place now is a conflict between the independent Palestinian will and the Arab liquidatory will. In view of this conflict, we announce our decision to stand on the side of our people, our cause, and the PLO in order to confront the conspiracy.

In a speech before the Shatila martyrs forces and the Palestinian community in the PDRY, Abu al-'Abbas said: Brother Abu 'Ammar is the symbol of the Palestinian revolution. He added that any attempt to separate the symbol and the cause is an attempt to strike at the cause and the homeland. Brother Abu al-'Abbas urged the Palestinian organizations and friends to announce a clear stand on what is taking place now, since there is no place for anyone to adopt an evenhanded stand or [words indistinct]. He affirmed that Brother Abu 'Ammar created the glory of the Palestinian revolution and stressed the importance of preserving independent Palestinian national decisionmaking.

Democratic-Popular Fronts' Appeal

LD071625 Algiers APS in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Algiers, 7 Nov (APS) — The joint leadership of the Democratic and Popular Palestinian Fronts has called for an immediate halt to the bloody fighting in Tripoli and its camps, rejection of seeking arbitration by means of arms, and adherence to the method of democratic dialogue as the sole road to reform and correction in order to protect the unity of the PLO, its independence, and its role as the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The joint leadership held the "protest movement" in Fatah and its Palestinian alliances mainly responsible for the continuation of the fighting. In a communique issued in Algiers last night, the joint leadership of the two fronts pointed to the dangers to which this situation leads in relation to the unity of the Palestinian revolution and its political and militant gains and to the cohesion of the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and leader of the national struggle. This is especially true of this time when American and Israeli aggressive threats are being escalated against Syria, the Palestinian revolution, and the Lebanese Nationalist Forces.

The communique added that the latest developments in the region required the attention and energes of all the nationalist forces toward confronting the permanent threat which hangs over all of them. Today more than at any other time in the past this calls for consolidating the unity of the Palestinian revolution and its alliance with Syria and the Lebanese Nationalist Forces in order to repulse the expected American-Israeli aggression and to maintain the gains achieved by the Nationalist Forces in the battles for the mountain. The joint leadership of the Palestinian democratic and popular fronts appealed to the Arabs and Palestinian masses and to all Arab and international nationalist and progressive forces to do all that they can to halt the shedding of Palestinian blood, to maintain the unity and independence of the PLO, and to end the conflict between the sons of the one nationalist rank in order to consolidate the nationalist Lebanese-Syrian-Palestinian alliance and to confront the common enemy.

Tunisian President Receives Palestinian Leaders

LD052046 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Nov 83

[Text] This Morning President Habib Bourguiba and his wife received a Palestinian delegation composed of strugglers Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], and Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] in the presence of Beji Caid es-Sebsi, Tunisian foreign minister, and Hasan Bal'awi, PLO representative in Tunisia. Following the audience Abu al-Lutf said that the deleagtion briefed the president on the attacks taking place in northern Lebanon by those whom he called mercenary and dissenter forces supported by other Arab forces. They also discussed the situation in the camps, which are being subjected to horrible bombardment daily.

Abu al-Lutf said: The President affirmed to us that the Tunisian president, government, and people stand by the Palestinian people in their present ordeal. He said he will do all he can to salvage the situation. Abu al-Lutf added: We thank the president for his stand in support of the Palestine people and the Palestine revolution for the sake of protecting the PLO and boosting the Palestine cause.

Chatti Appeals for End to Fighting

LD062129 Riyadh SPA in English 1909 GMT 6 Nov 83

[text] Jidda, Nov. 6 SPA — Habib Chatti, secretary-general of the World Muslim League (WML) has urged all concerned sides of the tragedy in Tripoli, North Lebanon, to stop fighting and reestablish unity to face their common enemy, Israel. The appeal was directed today to Palestinian factions fighting each other in Lebanon to stop their hostilities which threatened the Palestinian struggle and encouraged Israel to reinforce its occupation of Arab lands and Judaisation of Arab territories. He underlined the Islamic nations efforts, led by the kingdom to bring inter-Palestinian conflict into a halt. Chatti said the Islamic world regretted this tragic situation and appealed to all Palestinian leaders and factions in the name of Arabism and Islam and common struggle to end fighting each other and face their common enemy. He described the inter-Palestinian fighting as a tragedy unknown in the Arab contemporary history.

Nimr Salih Meets YAR Foreign Minister 6 Nov

JN062047 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2020 GMT 6 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus, 6 Nov (SANA) — Nimr Salih, member of Fatah Central Committee, met here today with YAR Foreign Minister 'Ali Lutfi ath-Thawr. WAFA said that they reviewed the political developments in the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas and current developments in the situation in northern Lebanon in particular and in the Palestinian arena in general. The discussions were held in an atmosphere of cordiality and understanding and the two sides agreed on continued consultation and contacts.

Messaadia Receives DFLP's Hawatimah 6 Nov

LD062332 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 6 Nov 83

[Text] The official responsible for the permanent secretariat of the FLN Central Committee, Mr Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, today received Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Dangerous developments affecting the Palestinian revolution in particular and the current situation in the Arab world in general were reviewed.

San'a' VOP Reports Operations, Tyre Explosion

GF041704 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Nov 83

[Text] Brothers: At the time when many attempts are taking place to hit the Palestinian revolution in northern Lebanon and in the camps — despite all this and despite all attempts and plots — our revolutionaries in the occupied territories and in southern Lebanon have continued their confrontation against occupation and their confrontation against the invasion forces.

A group of the joint forces yesterday evening ambushed a convoy of enemy vehicles. The operation resulted in killing four soldiers of the Zionist enemy's troops. Another group ambushed an enemy patrol and attacked it with bombs in a region near Sidon and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy.

This morning, the Zionist military governor of Sidon was killed as well as a large number of Zionist officers and soldiers when a transport vehicle loaded with explosions stormed the quarters of Zionist intelligence in the eastern entrance to Tyre. Reports say that about 200 Zionist military personnel were in the building and that they were all killed. A Zionist military spokesman admitted that the Zionist invasion forces are currently evacuating the wounded and dead among the Zionist officers and soldiers from the destroyed building.

PLO Delegation Confers With PRC Leaders

For PRC reportage on the visit of the PLO delegation led by Executive Committee member 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad, including meetings with Chinese party-state leaders, see the 4 November China *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

GCC Summit Conference Begins in Doha 7 Nov

Qatari Amir's Speech

GF071720 Doha Television Service in Arabic 1555 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Speech delivered by Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, at opening of fourth session of the GCC Supreme Council at Sheraton Hotel in Doha on 7 November — live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear brothers, your majesties, your highnesses, your excellencies, gentlemen: I greet you and welcome you warmly among you kinsmen in your second home, Qatar, which harbors toward you the sincerest sentiments of love and appreciation, deep sentiments that express the nobility of our brotherhood and the strength of the close ties that bind us together, as well as our common goal and destiny.

How happy we are to meet with you in Doha today at this fourth meeting of our council, a meeting that provides us with a happy opportunity in which we together renew the memory of that historic event in which we achieved a dear hope that has been cherished for long by the leaders and people of our Arab Gulf region — the establishment of the GCC — in order to organize ways to integrate our natural and human resources so as to realize the prosperity, strength, and stability to which we aspire, under the canopy of our tolerant Islamic ideology and our lofty Arab values.

The course we pursued to achieved our integration was based on the development of the means of such integration in a manner in which it gradually proceeds toward its objectives and in harmony with our circumstances and potential. We are convinced that this is the best course that ensures for our GCC stability, continuity, and success. With the help of Almighty God and as a result of following this course, we have succeeded in the short period that has lapsed since the GCC's establishment to take positive and important steps in various fields. These steps were appreciated by the Arab world, the Muslim world, and the international community.

Dear brothers, we are meeting today in very critical circumstances in which our Arab nation is being threatened by great dangers. These circumstances require of all of us to restore our total solidarity in order to put an end to the continued treacherous Israeli aggression against our rights and Arab land and solve our issues of destiny that have resulted from this aggression, foremost among which are the Palestinian and Lebanese questions, in order to establish a just comprehensive peace in the region, a peace to which we and the international community aspire. However, instead of uniting our ranks to confront the challenges that surround us, regretfully divisions now prevail in our Arab world as a result of differences among some Arab countries. The situation has exacerbated and discord has split the sons of the same Arab homeland, resulting in their fighting each other in both the Palestinian and Lebanese arenas.

Out of their conviction that divisions are a very serious threat to the destiny of our nation, the GCC countries have exerted, and continue to exert, efforts within the GCC framework to put an end to such devisions through brotherly dialogue, in order to unify Arab ranks. The leaders and peoples of our nation believe that their total solidarity is the way by which our nation can confront the challenges posed by our common enemy who has been tempted by our disunity in persisting in his aggression. It is definitely high time to act in accordance with what we believe, and devote our united efforts to achieving the solidarity that alone can ensure that our nation achieves all its goals and enjoys the dignified, strong, and prestigious position among other nations which it deserves.

It is painful for every sincere Muslim to see the Iraqi-Iranian war entering its fourth year despite all Arab, Muslim, and international efforts that have been made to end it. The most recent such effort was the resolution adopted by the UN Security Council. The continuation of this war can lead only to the shedding of the blood of thousands of citizens of these two neighboring Muslim countries, dissipating their human and economic resources and exposing the region to the threat of foreign interference in its affairs. Therefore, in order to ward off these great threats and losses, we still hope that Iran will follow Iraq's example in responding positively to endeavors to end the war between them and to establish peace in the area, in observance of the teachings of our Islamic religion, which calls for peace and amity and turning way from divisions and hostility, and to achieve the hope of all of us that the human and economic resources of both Iraq and Iran will be a source of good to the peoples of the two countries and the peoples of the area and the whole world.

Dear brothers, the GCC member countries are agreed that the best way to achieve our goals is to rely primarily on ourselves and to lay down sound foundations for building our own strength, because, more than any other strength, it safeguards our ability to avert all interference in our affairs and to keep our area free of superpower conflict. I am confident that, as a result of the spirit of genuine brotherhood and sincere cooperation and deep sense of the responsibility we hold which always prevail in our discussions, we shall turn the product of our work in this meeting of our council, God willing, into a new important stage in our progress toward the realization of our lofty national, pan-Arab,and international goals.

I ask Almighty God to guide us in reuniting on what is right and to grant us success in furthering our noble Islamic religion and achieving all good for our countries, our nation, and for the whole of mankind. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

Closed Session Held

GF071828 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] The leaders of the GCC countries concluded their 1-hour closed session at 2000 today. QNA has learned that proceedings were confined to hearing a report by GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah that reviewed the GCC's achievements and the progress of Gulf action in various fields during the period between the third and fourth sessions of the GCC Supreme Council.

Delegation for Fatah Mediation

GF071956 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1940 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Doha, 7 Nov (WAKH) — The WAKH correspondent in Doha quotes a reliable Gulf source as saying that contacts which were held with a number of Arab countries tonight resulted in the formation of an Arab delegation which will begin its mission of mediation tomorrow to put an end to the fighting between the PLO warring parties. The correspondent reports that a high-level delegation will begin its mission tomorrow morning. The delegation includes members from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Tunisia, and Algeria.

The source told the WAKH correspondent in Doha tonight that the GCC leaders, during the contacts they held with Arab leaders tonight, emphasized the need for quick action to stop the Arab bloodshed. The source said the GCC leaders received response and eagerness for this initiative, which aims primarily at restoring PLO unity to enable it to face the Zionist challenge.

It was also reported in Doha tonight that Khalid al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member, arrived in Doha this evening to acquaint the GCC leaders, who are currently convening in Doha, with the latest developments in the Palestinian arena.

Kuwaiti, Qatari To Mediate

GF081012 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 8 Nov 83

[Excerpts] Their majesties and highnesses the kings, amirs, and presidents of the GCC countries held a closed meeting, which was restricted to them, at 1215 local time at the Sheraton Hotel.

Meanwhile, WAM has learned from sources associated with the GCC summit conference, which is being held in Doha, that Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, and Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs, were authorized by the GCC leaders to leave for Damascus later today on a mediation mission seeking to end the fighting currently taking place in Tripoli, northern Lebanon. This was approved this morning during the meeting which was held by the GCC foreign ministers at the Sheraton Hotel in Doha.

Bahraini Amir Meets Zayid

GF071040 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0940 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Doha, 7 Nov (WAKH) — Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah met at the Sheraton Hotel in Doha today with UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan in a side meeting to the meetings of the fourth session of the GCC Supreme Council which will begin here today. During the meeting they exchanged views on the issues proposed for the agenda of the conference and issues of mutual concern. The meeting was attended by the delegations accompanying his highness the amir of Bahrain and the UAE president.

Fahd Meets Qatari Ruler

LD081014 Riyadh SPA in English 1912 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Doha, Nov. 7, SPA — HM King Fahd received at his private residence at Sheraton Hotel here tonight the Qatari ruler Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani. The meeting was attended by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Oil and Mineral Resources Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani and Finance and National Economy Minister Muhammad [passage indistinct]

KUWAIT

Fighting Within Fatah Movement 'Regretted'

LD061135 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1022 GMT 6 Nov 83

[Text] Kuwait, 6 Nov (KUNA) — Today Kuwait expressed its regret at the current fighting inside the Palestinian Fatah movement between supporters and opponents of Yasir 'Arafat and, at the same time, reiterated its support for the Palestinian revolution. The Kuwaiti Cabinet at the end of its weekly meeting issued a statement in which it said: "We deeply regret the serious situation facing the Palestinian cause and the developments of the situation of the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular. The Cabinet considers that everybody has to preserve every drop of Arab blood and not to spill it except in liberating the occupied Arab territories."

The statement called for "resorting to wisdom, reason, and dialogue to solve the misunderstanding; the Palestinian cause must rise above all disputes, whatever they are, in order to close ranks to combat the Israeli occupation and the forces of oppression and tyranny which lie in wait for the Palestinian cause and to work to liquidate it."

The statement stressed: "The Cabinet, affirming Kuwait's commitment to support and stand by the Palestinian revolution, appeals to the Palestinian brothers, during these difficult circumstances which face the Arab nation in general and the Palestinian cause in particular, to gather around their legitimate leadership, to solve the dispute through dialogue, reason, and sincerity, and not to allow any external effects to weaken them and liquidate their just cause."

Amir Confers With Saudi, Algerian Leaders

LD061218 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1118 GMT 6 Nov 83

[Text] Kuwait 6 Nov (KUNA) — It was officially announced here today that the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Sabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, earlier today had telephone conversations with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and discussed the fighting taking place within the Palestinian Fatah fida'i movement. A Kuwaiti official spokesman told KUNA that Shaykh Jabir discussed with King Fahd and President Bendjedid "the current Arab conditions and efforts to halt the bloodshed among the brethren in Tripoli, northern Lebanon.

PDRY

Official Leaves With Message for Al-Asad

GF071445 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee, left Aden for Damascus today on 1-day visit to the fraternal Syrian Arab Republic.

In a predeparture statement to the radio correspondent, 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir said that he is carrying a message from 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, to his Brother Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic, on the serious recent developments in the region [words indistinct] and contain the fighting among Palestinian factions. He declared: We in the PDRY have expressed our view that there should be no recourse to arms in resolving the differences among our Palestinian brothers [words indistinct] the Palestinian question. He expressed hope that the various sincere efforts being made to contain the fighting will be successful.

Chairman Receives Message From King Husayn

GF071712 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received today a letter from his Brother King Husayn of Jordan dealing with the Arab situation, particularly current developments in the Lebanese and Palestinian arenas and the dangers threatening the two fraternal peoples. The brother chairman sent reply letter to his Brother King Husayn in this regard.

'Ali Receives Message From YAR President

GF061915 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Nov 83

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received in his office today Brother Colonel Husayn ad-Dafi'i, the president's adviser for unity affairs and member of the Standing Committee in the northern part of the homeland. During the meeting, Brother ad-Dafi'i conveyed to Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad a verbal message from his Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress in the northern part of the homeland, dealing with Yemeni and Arab issues and coordination between the two parts of the homeland. The meeting was attended by Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Batani, alternate member of the YSP Central Commitee and minister of interior.

PDRY, Cyprus Establish Diplomatic Relations

GF071442 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Summary] A statement issued today announces the establishment of diplomatic relations between the PDRY and the Republic of Cyprus at the ambassadorial level.

SAUDI ARABIA

Arab Foreign Ministers Conference Proposed

LD051928 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Nov 83

[Excerpts] His Majesty Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz chaired a meeting of the Council of Ministers this afternoon. Following the meeting, the minister of information made the following statement:

The Council discussed the overall results of consultations and contacts carried out by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with fraternal Arab countries concerning the convening of the 13th Arab summit. After a detailed study of all aspects and circumstances surrounding the Arab region in light of current events and conditions, the Council issued the following statement:

The 12th Arab summit conference in Fes honored the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by accepting its invitation to hold the 13th Arab summit conference in Riyadh in November 1983. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has made all the necessary arrangements to convene the conference at its scheduled time and place, including the necessary contacts to ensure the conference's success.

It has beocme clear to the Kingdom during these contacts that a number of fraternal Arab countries favored postponing the conference for some time until the Arab atmosphere is better prepared, viewpoints are closer, and contacts being exerted in this respect are completed. In appreciation of this desire and anxious to perform its Pan-Arab duty in convening the conference in the best conditions conducive to its success, the Kingdom has found it appropriate to call for a meeting of Arab foreign ministers, to be held at the Arab League Headquarters, to discuss a suitable date for convening the summit. The Kingdom has asked the Arab League secretary general to make the necessary contacts for convening the foreign ministers meeting at the earliest possible opportunity.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, while welcoming the agreed date for convening the conference in Riyadh, asks Almighty God to unite the nation and to enable it to confront whatever challenges face it.

Ruler Handed Message From Libya's Al-Qadhdhafi

LD061118 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1046 GMT 6 Nov 83

[Text] Riyadh, 6 Nov (SPA) — His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz at the Royal Court today received General Secretary of the Libyan People's Congress Muhammad az-Zarruq, who handed his majesty a message from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The meeting was attended by Minister of Finance and National Economy Muhammad Aba al-Khayil and Planning Minister Hisham Nazir.

The Libyan official arrived in Riyadh Friday evening.

YAR

President Receives Message From 'Arafat

GF051940 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Nov 83

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, has received a message from brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, on the circumstances and threats to which the Palestinian revolution is being subjected.

President Receives PDRY, Syrian Messages

GF071922 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office at the General Command this morning Lieutenant Colonel Husayn ad-Daf'i, member of the Consultative Council, the president's adviser for unity affairs, and member of the Standing Committee, who returned from Aden this morning. During the meeting, Ad-Daf'i conveyed a reply message to the brother president from his Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers in the southern part of the homeland.

The brother president also received in his office at the General Command today Brother 'Ali Lutfi ath-Thawr, minister of foreign affairs and member of the Standing Committee, who conveyed to the brother president a message from his Brother Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Arab Republic of Syria, dealing with issues of common interest.

Mubarak Speech to Council, Assembly Joint Session

NC061400 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0920 GMT 6 Nov 83

[Speech by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to joint session of Consultative Council and People's Assembly in Cairo — live]

[Text] In the name of God, the most gracious and most merciful.

Brothers and sisters, members of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council: Our celebration today marks the beginning of the new legislative session carrying with it signs calling for thought and contemplation. The honorable People's Assembly is holding its fifth session and is thereby completing its constitutional term. This is one of a few times in our parliamentary history that the parliamentary assembly completes its term as defined in the Constitution. We are thereby setting a precedent that I have been eager to bring about, and are setting a foundation that I hope we will not deviate from. The establishment of a parliamentary system and constitutional foundation are two urgent demands for consolidating a sound democratic structure and for achieving a true political participation. Seriousness and continuity are the two wings by which we fly toward the horizons of the future and look forward to the dawn of tomorrow.

Our meeting today comes at a time when the Consultative Council has completed the midterm elections of its members, who include new elements joining the national action, thus adding a new balance to the democratic march. The criterion of the success of political action is no longer that of arousing the masses, forging empty slogans, or making glittering promises. Instead, public service has become a specific duty and a sublime mission that has its orders, standards, and sacrifices for the sake of God, the homeland, and the people.

On this occasion, I must mention Dr Sufi Abu Talib, former speaker of the People's Assembly. [applause] I must mention the efforts he made during the past five legislative sessions and throughout the past years. He held one of the longest terms of the assembly's speakership in our parliamentary history. While lauding his continuous contributions during one of the delicate phases of national action, I wish the new speaker of the People's Assembly success in his mission. I affirm that we are all — without exception — soldiers of this homeland and advocators of its loftiness and progress. Egypt, whose history stands lofty in the world and whose culture represents the cornerstone of all the human thinking, has derived from its social and cultural stability the firm establishment of a political system and the depth of the scientific rules that regulated the code of government and that brought about the Egyptian central government in an early phase of mankind's history.

Several peoples envy this great people who instinctively adopted monotheism and who reached a high degree of national and social harmony. This people embraced the divine religions and preserved the purity of their message. The family of Jesus Christ walked on the good land of Egypt seeking safety and amity. Orthodox Islam prospered, and the minarets of the Holy Al-Azhar rose high into the sky. Therefore, it is not strange that Egyptian national unity expresses a deeply entrenched national feeling and a vivid Egyptian spirit which does not discriminate among Egyptians according to their belief or religion, nor does it distinguish among them except for their true desire for sacrifice and their sincere ability to offer. [applause]

Our country has known the general basic law [al-qa'idah al-qanuniyah al-'amah] since ancient times. Our masses raised their voices high demanding freedom, independence, and a constitution. The Egyptian struggle against the foreign presence was accompanied by the insistence on the establishment of a legal constitutional government, in which the people would have the legislative power and where the sword of the law would rise above persons and institutions. The first parliament in modern Egypt was established over a century ago, coincident with a number of European parliaments.

Doubtless, on this legislative occasion, we must contemplate and define our correct position on the map of political action inside and outside the homeland. The intention is not to distribute responsibility, or lay blame, but it is a joint attempt — much like thinking aloud — to chart the course of our march and to explore our future footsteps, which portends great challenges and entails tasks that need the toil and sweat of every Egyptian, his patience and sacrifice, his sincerity, loyalty, and self-denial, regardless of position or responsibility. The homeland needs all its sons regardless of their political beliefs, or their ideological trends, or their social positions. Egypt, to which we aspire, is above all considerations and above all differences. It is calling upon us to study a number of general issues which are of particular importance in the coming legislative year.

1. Democracy is a basic issue and is still a national action priority. It is an issue related to the nature of the political system and the definition of its identity. Political partnership and guarantees for the citizens' freedom are necessary matters that are only subject to the controls of the public interest and the limits drawn up by the society on the basis of the beliefs and basic values which we have accepted, and to which we have agreed to adhere through the constitutional institutions and the legal channels. I would like to note that we are not annoyed by constructive criticism or objective treatment of matters. We are all partners in the homeland. No single person can monopolize sincerity to the homeland, and no certain group can claim loyalty to it.

As I have already said, the homeland belongs to everybody — government and opposition, leaders and masses. From the time our great people gave me the honor of responsibility, I have taken it upon myself from the beginning that no opinion shall be interdicted, no idea shall be suppressed, no discrimination shall be practiced between one citizen and another, and no distinction made between supporter and opponent because we have chosen the sound democratic path. We shall not deviate from this path irrespective of the excesses or negative aspects. The public law lays down the controls and the limits that ensure that justice does not turn into arbitrariness or freedom into anarchy, or that the general national effort is made in vain or that the public interest is lost as a result of oneupmanship, maneuvers, and personal ambitions.

2. The nature of the relationship among the three constitutional authorities is always based on complete harmony and an inte-

grated officialdom. The legislative authority that you represent bears the major responsibility of contributing to development and of participating in the change for the better, as this requires new legislation or an amendment to the existing legislation. This does not conflict with our call for consolidating stability, strengthening ideals, and delicate and objective balancing between the constant and the variable, between the existing and the evolving, and between stability and movement. All these are matters which are decided through sincere national awareness and to the concept of the public interest. This necessarily requires the legislative authority to be fully aware of the masses' needs, to feel to their pulse, and to respond to their hopes. This is the responsibility of the people's representatives who are members of the two assemblies, through their links with the people's masses and their concern to carry out their mission in a manner that is commensurate with the confidence they were given and the assignment they accepted from the electorate. By so doing they will be the living conscience of the nation and the spokesmen of the people, expressing their hopes, aspirations, and pain. [applause]

3. The voice of the opposition, which we give the attention it deserves and the right to debate, must be a positive addition to the asset of political work during this phase, so that it will be able to add and to go on giving and providing constructive advice. The opposition's criticism should not discredit everything that exists, detract from the achievements, fish only for mistakes, and distort the facts. The opposition parties are called upon to enact a more effective role that involves being true to oneself inasmuch as it involves loyalty to the homeland's issues because all of us are working under one roof; namely, Egyptian nationalism that is based on a pan-Arab affiliation [applause]. It is Egyptian nationalism that constantly seeks to achieve the common objectives of progress and prosperity. Differences in opinion or in inclinations should not be a phenomenon that provokes anxiety or calls for exasperation.

From my position to which the people have elected me, I say to all that we are partners in destiny and, comrades on the same path. Our precious Egypt requires the efforts of everyone of its sons, provided that his intentions are sincere and determination is strong. [applause].

Brothers and sisters: We understand in all confidence that the real capability of any political regime is not judged by the number of prisons that it opens, or by whom this regime throws into concentration camps. However, the real power of any regime is commensurate with the liberties that it affords and with the individual safeguards that it guarantees [applause] under the aegis of the law. Therefore, I rightly believe that what is sometimes published in the opposition newspapers is to our credit, not to our detriment. Even more, it is a medal with which we decorate our political system. We want these publications to remain exactly as they are.

4. This session is the last one for the present People's Assembly. We are on the threshhold of general elections within a few months. This is an opportunity for us all — people, government, and opposition — to prove that we have traversed extensive ground on the path to sound democracy in such a way that efforts will be dovetailed to advance the national action march. In doing so, the shortsighted and selfish party outlook will vanish to make way for clear-cut policies that aim at achieving the homeland's interests — applying self-denial in this most serious and important of the phases of our modern history to overcome all the challenges and sacrifices that this phase entails and requires. In this phase, it is futile to resort to negativism, yield to ignomity and personal gains, or use methods that ignore what is going on around us in the Arab and international arenas and that are incapable of understanding the nature of the difficulties facing us at home and abroad.

Cherished brothers and sisters: I now tell you that the coming elections will be a test in which we shall prove that, indeed, we live in an epoch of comprehensive and honest frankness that can attract all national expertise and capabilities to the arena of political action in a manner that will foster the Egyptians' sense of affiliation with their homeland, buttress their confidence in the future, and revive this nation following years of successive wars and the accumulation of continued suffering.

5. The increase of production is the sole tactic that can be used in confronting the economic problem in all its implications and dimensions. It requires us all to work more, to exert extensive and sincere efforts, and to show loyalty and seriousness to implement the 5-year plan which we began in all determination and insistence on achieving the plan's ambitions. Perhaps, at this point, seeking assistance in the form of figures might be necessary, but without engaging in details. The preliminary statements issued on the followup of the implementation of this plan have shown that the value of production at fixed prices for 1981-82 rose from 34 billion pounds to 36.5 billion in 1982-83; that is, a growth average of 7.5 percent. This is an encouraging start that instills hope in our hearts, and that adds to our insistence to adhere to the plan in the years to come so that our continued movement in the economic domain will continue to be governed by sound scientific rules, with the principle of planning as the starting point. This principle guarantees that our steps will proceed on specific and consistent bases — without haphazardness or improvisation — and that our steps will take the long-term national interest into account.

This is because our responsibility for Egypt's future is no less than our responsibility for its past and its present. In fact, the future is the most improtant thing of all, because it is the sound criteria for shaping the Egyptian existence in a world in which conflicts and contradicitons interact and challenges are increasing. We have no choice in this regard. The people must triumph and their heads must be held high, even if we have to face the most dangerous challenges and obstacles for this purpose. This is because Egypt is the purpose and the aim, and it is the sacred spot which God mentioned in his holy book and the prophets honored. In my previous speech at the youth meeting I spoke about agriculture and called for promoting agriculture, because it is our future. I called for achieving self-sufficiency in most crops. The crops in which we cannot achieve self-sufficiency, we must achieve near self-sufficiency. I think that the [5-year] plan is proceeding in this direction. This time I shall speak about industry.

6. National industry must be the cause and source of every Egyptian's pride. It is a principal feature of economic indepen-

dence, and the other face of political independence. It is also the tangible expression of the strength of the national economy and the high standard of its efficiency. We must always take into consideration that Egypt had modern industry more than one and a half centries ago, and possessed established and distinguished national industries. Perhaps at this point a return to the language of figures will be important and beneficial. The amount of investments allocated in the 5-year plan for the industrial sector totals 8.6 billion pounds. This amount is allocated for the public sector, and 1.8 billion pounds for the private and joint sector investments. With the start of the second year of the plan, in July 1983, the total amount allocated for the industrial sector investments was 1.109 billion pounds. This is just in one year. Initial reports on the followup of the 5-year plan indicates that there has been a tangible increase in the production of a number of basic industrial and food products. The plan aims at increasing production in the vital sectors of interest to the toiling citizen. For example, the plan for the manufacture of ready-made clothes aims at increasing production form 30 million pieces annually to 100 million pieces. These will be manufactured jointly by the public sector and the private and joint sector factories. The industrial sector also participates in providing the needs of the housing and construction sector. A huge project for the production of iron for building is being implemented in order to increase the present production capacity from 300,000 tons to more than 1 million tons annually. The project which is being implemented is that of the Ad-Dukhaylah iron plant in Alexandria. It will have a capacity of 700,000 tons annually. We are all looking with hope to the day in which there will be new substitutes from our national industries to all the goods which we import from abroad. We all share in this responsibility, irrespective of our positions. Each one of us must serve as a good example in this regard, particularly those who occupy executive or legislative positions, in order to provide a good example to others and so that our national behavior will reflect the principles which we advocate and the slogans which we raise. You are called upon to participate in drawing up a comprehensive national program in which slogans will be turned into tangible reality and the general national conscience will start preferring the national products manufactured by the hands of Egyptian workers and through the knowledge of its scientists. [applause]

7. There are several indications that the state's efforts in the production and services sector has achieved tanigble results in recent years. Here we also leave it up to the figures to speak for themselves. In the oil sector, for example, the 1982/83 production is estimated at about 4 billion pounds, however, 2 billion pounds of this is to support oil in Egypt. The average growth amounts to 5.9 percent over the actual production in 1981/82. In the electricity sector, power energy production in 1982/83 amounted to about 245 million pounds. The average growth amounts to 8.5 percent. We should not forget on this occasion to remember that it is our duty to seek with all sincerity, honesty, and seriousness to limit the consumption of energy and fuel so that we can reap the fruits of this production growth. It is unacceptable that consumption in this field should continue at a rate above world averages, which amounts to 15 percent annually. It is an alarming figure with serious implications. Moreover it exceeds the world averages in developing and industrial states alike.

In the transport and communications field, during the first year of the 5-year plan, 500 km of primary roads were widened and reinforced. Some would speak about the upper Egypt road. [laughter] For this reason I spoke to the minister of transport yesterday to find a solution to the upper Egypt road. The minister of transport is present. [applause] All of you are from upper Egypt, I know. [applause and laughter] Work is currently underway for widening and reinforcing 1,180 km more. I hope that you construct this road and let me rest because whenever I meet them they ask for the upper Egypt road. [applause] A total of 350 km of main roads will be paved. Work is currently underway for constructing and paving 468 km of roads. There is a lot of road construction and paving work. During the same period, 26,000 telephone lines were established in Cairo, 13,400 lines in Alexandria — you will say there are no other cities but Cairo and Alexandria — [laughter] 5,500 lines in upper and lower Egypt, 14,000 lines in the Suez Canal area, and 9,000 lines in semi-automatic telephone exchanges. These figures, which indicate progress in some sectors, do not mean that we have attained all that we aspire or that we have achieved the ambitions of the time period that elapsed within the 5-year plan. The road is long and hard. [an unidentified member of the audience says: The desert roads. President Mubarak replies: The agricultural as well] [laughter] The road is long and hard. The more we accomplish the more expectations increase. We are looking forward to the day when our production will meet all our requirements and reach the phase of self-sufficiency — I am speaking about agriculture because he who does not possess his food does not possess his freedom [applause] — and of achieving an adequate surplus for export. This goal has been achieved by many peoples having limited resources. However, they have nevertheless been able to enter the field of export to a large extent. Last year you complained about watermelon; we were forced to export watermelon because it was piled up in streets. Does it mean that you must eat watermelon all the year? [laughter]

I am not here to speak about the developed industrial states in Europe and America alone but also about several states on the Asian Continent, which have entered the competitive field of production and export under extremely difficult circumstances. We must be determined to reach what they have attained in progress and prosperity. We do not lack determination or will. We do not lack the will for success. They are not ahead of us in national renaissance and national vigilance. I also draw attention to the importance of the economic role played in consolidating these states' independence and in achieving peace and social stability for their peoples.

8. A great number of the state's efforts are still being directed to confronting the urgent problems from which the Egyptian man is suffering in his daily life because of existing difficulties and restrictions on several vital utilities.

I do not wish to recall here the reasons that led us to this situation or the vestiges leading to all these sufferings. I mentioned that in a previous speech. This was a tax which Egypt paid in fulfillment of its pan-Arab commitments. It suffices to note the capital's problems, not because it has abut a quarter of the whole population of the state, but also because this is something tangible and the problem appears more urgent to governments and is reflected by the information media. This is always the case with capitals. This should not at all reduce our responsibility toward the governorates and other regions. This is because Egypt's renaissance is indivisible and every inch of its good earth is of the same standing as the Holy Valley of Tura.

Perhaps our tackling of these problems in urban and rural regions would have been easier and less complex if we had been satisfied with remedying the urgent contemporary problems and had not devoted the larger part of our energy and resources to confronting situations which we expect to appear in the next 50 years — you might say: Of what concern are the next 50 years to us, we want to live today. If everyone in the past had said that they should look to the future, we would not have found ourselves in the situation we are in now. [applause] We must look to the future, but tackle our present situation as much as we can. Our planning should have an eye to the future regarding our internal problems — according to scientific rules of planning. However, had we done so, we would have committed a sin against this sacred homeland and would have defaulted in our responsibility toward the coming generations of our sons and grandsons. [sentence as received]

Some of our compatriots, I do not know them, sit at home complaining about schools, water, and electricity. We know all this. But do you not see the reforms being made. Do you not see that this year, for example, we contracted the first phase of the Cairo sewage network for 1.2 billion pounds? Do you not see the improvement in telephones and the number of bridges that were built, and are being built, in Cairo? There is a great deal being done, but do not expect anyone to have the power of pressing a button to repair everything. He who can do that — let him to come to me and I am ready to embrace him and discuss with him how he could solve the problems. [applause] This can be said if there were shortcomings, but there is light, and the sewage system is working. The sewage project is in progress and traffic bridges are being built. There are many problems and we cannot cope. Our resources are limited, you know that. If there are resources that are not being spent properly, we are a free democratic country and everyone can say the truth. Criticize constructively in the people's interest. We will accept this and will not be annoyed by it. [applause]

This is one of the characteristics of Egyptian democracy. Everything is in the open. Public work is in the open. If there is a mistake, it must be corrected — there are many eyes.

9. Education is a philosophy and policy. It affects the future of this nation more than anything else. The school plays a principal role in shaping the citizen form his childhood, in shaping his concepts about the universe and life, in crystallizing his values and principles, in directing his behavior in society to become a useful part of his country and nation. The educational process is extremely important in charting the path of the coming generations and is decisive in defining the future of this homeland. Therefore, interest in education as a method of reform is a basic process for exerting influence at the source where the results are guaranteed.

Our country, which has a huge human investment in the education sector, must pursue a clear and definite course in educational planning — and we are proceeding in this sphere at present — to ensure the best utilization of human resources. I think that you have seen that there has been a greater shift toward the technical side — to ensure the scientific utilization of education in the service of society and to confront the problems of the age and the challenges of development. This is especially so since the people of Egypt possess capabilities and expertise thatare a source of pride. This has always received the admiration of the world, especially when Egyptian names representing the highest levels of competency in the various fields appear in a number of developed countries. This means that Egypt is one of the few countries in the developing world which can mobilize a huge number of distinguished minds and cadres tha can shape the future and make progress.

10. The people's participation, I repeat the people's participation, and I repeat the people's participation [applause] and the end of the method of unilateral solutions — as is being done by the progressive and developed countries — have become an urgent necessity to confront the enormous number of cumulative problems over the years. The day in which we can deepen the zeal of every Egyptian for his country from the standpoint of its order, cleanliness, and the soundness of its services and in which the citizens undertake voluntary initiatives to beautify their cities, plant trees in them, and clean them — on this day the Egyptian will have expressed by collective action his pride in his homeland and in his civilization. An enormous change will have taken place in his mentality, after having become accustomed to leaving to the government and its departments the responsibility of facing the problems alone, contenting himself with complaining about what is happening — and how easy it is to do that — and blaming others. The time has come to abandon this mentality which has been inherited from the era of colonialism and foreign rule. This represents a negative inclination which must stop, and a detestable phenomena which must not continue. Here lies your role as representatives of the people who have won the people's confidence in directing the people's movement toward positive values and constructive participation until we reach the day in which every one of us will light a candle instead of cursing the darkness. [applause]

Great nations are made by challenges and molded by experience. Across their long history, our people have come across difficult junctures which have left their marks on its present and future. Our people have accumulated a huge asset of inherited values which form the Egyptian way of life as well as the patterns of social behavior that define the citizen's relationship with the state, his view of the authority, and his perception of life around him. At this stage, we are called upon to hold further studies in social sciences to discuss developing values and guiding behavior, to offer modern alternatives for erroneous concepts and archaic patterns, and to implant correct concepts in the citizens. These correct concepts include protection of public funds, cooperation with the official departments in solving problems, a deep feeling of belonging to the homeland, a sense of responsibility toward work, an end to negligence, indifference, and laxity, and administering the appropriate justice, be it reward or punishment. [applause] The rhythm of life will then become organized and the march will proceed on its correct course.

At this stage, the state must dedicate the greatest share of its efforts to serving the overwhelming majority of the citizens, tackling their livelihood problems, and subsidizing them. Undoubtedly, great attention must be paid to the issue of social justice. The problem of those with limited incomes is a main preoccupation for us and is in direct priority next to the issue of increasing production and completing the factors of political and economic independence. We always pay attention to anything that may enhance justice. We consider this as one of the first issues that must be submitted for objective discussion.

There remain two issues within the context of the talk about the priorities of domestic national action. These two issues are of maximum importance in defining the shape of the future of our land. They are:

1. The youths issue. This issue preoccupies the attention of civilized peoples because the youths represent one half of the present and the whole of the future. Hopes are pinned on them. Their minds are replete with questions which need clear answers and true and sincere interpretations. For the sake of truth: This generation of Egypt's youths has witnessed a period of momentous developments and changes. Ideals have been shaken before their eyes, and leaders have been defamed. This doubles our responsibility and puts a basic task on the shoulder of the government and popular organizations; namely, to place the potential of our youths in its correct framework and to adopt dialogue and persuasion as a method for dealing with them in order to fill the ideological and mental vacuum in which they sometimes live. This vacuum might cause two forms of escapism — escape from place or escape from time. This happens when some youths dissociate themselves from society and life, and follow their distorted ideas in an unconscious attempt to escape reality in which they find no suitable place for themselves that is compatible with their aspirations and ambitions.

We look to a future in which our youths will not resort to escapism from place or time. Youths are this nation's dearest possession and the most beloved asset to this people. As an example of our youths' sincere desire to serve their homeland, it is enough to remember that wonderful feat which they accomplished in high spirit; namely, the renovation of the Saladin Castle and other great Egyptian landmarks around it. [applause] They thus set an example of what they could offer to their dear homeland.

2. The population problem. In my opinion, it is the main problem and it constitutes the major obstacle placed in the way of development. This problem consumes all efforts and exhausts most of the positive developments. The dreadful average of the population explosion confronts us with a major challenge that deprives us of reaping the fruit of achievements and consumes the highest proportion of the country's growth rate. The time has come for us to stop — in a scientific and serious pause — to confront this problem and to pool all the resources of national action behind this objective. This holds particularly true because some developing peoples, whose circumstances might be more difficult and more involved than our circumstances, have achieved tangible progress in this domain. It is also possible for us to benefit from their expertise and experience. Meanwhile, we should take into account the nature of the difference in values and in beliefs that control the framework and the essence of this issue. The reason for this is that there is no course leading to rationalization and organization other than the course of enlightenment and conviction. Our hope that we will be able to find such a course is pinned on raising the cultural level of the masses and increasing their understanding of the nature of the problem and of the tactics to be used in confronting it. In the coming period, the state will do its utmost to intensify studies on this issue and to discuss the correct methods to be used in remedying it. The population conference slated for convocation in January 1984 will afford an opportunity for the experts and the specialists to meet together in an attempt to discuss the population explosion and the method for dealing with it.

Before I move to the foreign situation, I want to make some remarks to your esteemed assembly: Before talking about the renewal of the Emergency Law and only the renewal of the Emergency Law, not the proclamation of a state of emergency, may I say that the purpose behind this law is clear — I know that you have discussed this subject. However, one regrets that such a subject is being exploited for absolutely unpatriotic purposes — for political purposes, for undermining confidence, and for fomenting trouble. I say, folks, this is not the time for such things. Some people say that there is an Emergency Law and that it is used to terrorize people. Do not think that this issue is done with. This is an old subject; it is in all the areas around us. All the world has a law called the anti-terrorism law. Regrettably, when we renew an Emergency Law, we raise an uproar over it. Why are you afraid? Do you intend to become terrorists? This is surprising! Well, sometimes I wonder for hours: Well, why do some people say no, as long as you see that we use this law only to defend your destinies and gains, and your lives and entity. Well, when we promulgate an anti-terror law, they tell you: No, the ordinary laws will do. No, brothers, the ordinary laws are useless.

That part of the Emergency Law in use is a very, very weak part in comparison to the anti-terror law in the democratic states and in the old democracies. I will cite examples for you so that you will know. Do you want us to be democratic, or do you want us to end up with anarchy and terrorism? Therefore, I will tell you about the nature of the anti-terrorism law and about the controls used in the democratic countries and I will tell you about the provisions of our inadequate law. Let us speak frankly, so that we will understand things and so that we will not engage in trying to out do each other over such subjects. We must all have the same understanding, whether we are in the government, opposition, or from the people — we must understand the subject.

First, in Britain, what does the Emergency Law stipulate? A person who has been subjected to the procedures of the anti-terrorism law is entitled to lodge a grievance with the home secretary within 96 hours. If he is influenced by this grievance, the home secretary refers him to a committee formed by the secretary to express its opinion in this respect — and the committee's opinion is of a consultative nature, it is not binding.

The home secretary is authorized to ban any organization of terrorist character or links with terrorist organizations. He is also authorized to put under house arrest anyone proven to have committed acts of terror without referring to the judiciary control. We do not have such things. We have laws and judiciary and we respect this.

Let us consider the FRG. We are not attacking anyone. I am just explaining to those who do not know the laws what is going on abroad. Also, we do not take action against anyone. If we were using the Emergency Law, we would ban [certain] publications and would do other things, but this has never happened. Let us take the FRG. The security sources are authorized to remand in custody a suspect of terrorist acts — this is in keeping with the law — if suspicion exists about his involvement in terrorist organizations. The custody term is 30 days extendable with similar periods without restricting the maximum term. The defendant has the right to determine the number of defense lawyers. He is not allowed 100 defense lawyers. The defense lawyers are limited to three with special rules for court hearings. The interior minister can make any rules and can exclude the defense lawyers from the case if they deliberately seek to impede the trial. This is the case in the FRG, which is an old democracy.

Let us take Italy, the security authorities are authorized to put a man in solitary confinement, if he is accused of having links with terrorist or subversive acts. The confinement can continue for at least 6 years. The public prosecution must be notified within 48 hours of the date of confinement to check that proper measures have been taken. The security men are authorized to question the defendant without a defense lawyer being present. You know our laws. These are our circumstances. We absolutely do not aim to put people in detention camps. We want to secure the people's gains. We want to secure you and every citizen in Egypt against terrorism. Why do we make big unjustified stories to show that there is no stability. Stability is an important factor that everyone of us must understand. Every Egyptian on Egyptian soil must understand that stability is important for development, for raising the people's standard of living, and for alleviating their suffering.

I will give an example about stability: From 1963 to 1973 or 1974, the people were scared and capital was cowardly. How many oil companies came to prospect for oil? How many agreements, Engineer Hilal? Five? [Petroleum Minister Hilal answers: Five] After that, and when stability was established, how many companies came, 45 or 75 agreements? 75 agreements were concluded. Every company brought funds just because stability was established.

When rumors circulate that there will be nationalization, and that funds will disappear from the markets — the bankers are there — funds are quickly withdrawn, just because a rumor is circulated. In whose interest is this? We are all Egyptians and patriots, and we love our country. In whose interest is this? We cannot work alone, we must all work together. Every Egyptian in this country is supposed to love his country, safeguard it, and seek to raise its standard. We must do this. [applause]

In our country, we also have [laughter in the background] family meetings and special gatherings at homes and in societies. There is freedom. There are people who write and criticize. A certain newspaper reported that the president will leave the party because of the elections next day. It is too obviously kidding. [laughter and applause] Anyway I am not angry. I hear such things and laugh at this political amusement that does no harm. [laughter]

There are three opinions in Egypt: There are some people who say that there is freedom and that things are getting better and better. These people think logically. What is required is more freedom with some compatibility. I agree with this opinion, but everything takes time. We are dealing with a weary people and we must put controls on everything. When we achieve a good economic stability, rest assured that we will be afraid of nothing. I am concerned only for the people and the vast majority. We do not want to harm the majority. We want to reduce and eliminate their suffering. This is my only concern for the people and nothing else, neither the position nor anything else [applause]. In addition, the people who hold this opinion say that there is press freedom and that Egypt has never known a free press such as it knows at present. I will return to this point, so pay attention.

These people say that everyone can say what he wants. Other people do not like criticism and this state of affairs. They say that freedom in Egypt has reached the point of chaos and that the regime left things to reach the point of laxity, that it is doing nothing and does not want to do anything, and that things are in a mess. These people are not used to criticism and do not want opposition. They believe that we must take exceptional measures in order to check this trend where everyone is criticizing. But why do these people not answer the criticizers. If they criticize you, criticize them. We want to learn. Why shall we remain afraid? We must learn about the supremacy of the law. In democracy, mistakes must be criticized. There will necessarily be mistakes, as in all other countries of the world. But through learning, both the government and opposition will reach a sound path.

I say no. I do not stand with this second group. There will never be a return backward. I want to tell these people who say this that the power of any regime, as I have said earlier, is not to put in jail and detention camps those who speak. This is a difficult process but it is also the easiest thing to do. The power of a regime is manifest when the ruler hears criticism and tolerates it as long as it is constructive and does not deviate from legitimacy or is excessive. I hope no one thinks that the regime is unaware. I hope that things will not reach this point. I will restore things to normal whatever the circumstances [applause]. I do not want anyone to believe that freedom and democracy [Mubarak does not complete sentence]. I want you to know this. We will have great patience as long as criticism is constructive and does not reach the point of being without discipline or affects the people's interest and the march. I believe that what is being written in papers was not written before. I am not taking action. Although there is an Emergency Law, am I using it? The people must speak so that at least anyone who makes mistakes, or tampers with the staples of the people will be afraid. I support this, but beware of excesses or deviation. I hope and I am confident that we will not exceed our limits so that we will not harm the interests of our people and our future generations.

The third group of people sit at their homes free. If we work and produce we will not find time for this talk. They go to bed at sunset without saying anything. [laughter]. Those who go home at 1800, they go to bed, but those who stay up until 0200 say that there is neither democracy, freedom, or anything in Egypt. Someone says...[Mubarak responds to laughter and talk in the background] No, I respect people and if there are some slips of the tongue, it is all right. He [not identified] speaks about an oppressor whipping an oppressed or about swindlers who are surrounding the sultans. This is strange. It seems there are many sultans without my knowledge [laughter]. He talks about the geniuses who delude the people into believing that there is democracy in Egypt. I want to ask this writer, or rather, I want him to ask himself — I do not want to ask him — if there were no democracy and freedom in Egypt, could he write such things? It is strange. [applause] I tell this writer that the freedom he is enjoying must be met with commitment to the truth and facts and responsibility toward the homeland and the masses. I would like to add that Egypt is governed by one sultan that no sultan is above the sultan of law. [applause] The law sultan is above everyone. You see that we absolutely do not interfere in the law. We are ordered by the law and we resort to the judiciary in regulating the state's relations with all political parties, groups or individuals.

There is one more thing — I am sorry I am wasting your time [voices are heard in background saying "No"]. The Wafd party filed a complaint. I am not against anyone at all. Although I am the leader of the National Democratic Party, I have been accustomed all my life to being fair in all spheres. They won the case the first time in court. As long as we want to establish the principle of the supremacy of the law, I am not annoyed by anything. If one violates the law, I will say no. I will not keep quiet at all. There will be no leniancy regarding any violation of the law. The Wafd party won the case. I am not angry. We contested it. When it won the case, the doors were opened. But were the doors closed? That's strange. People want to write. They do not want the government to contest. If I as president of the state kept silent, they would say: Oh. They did it with the president before that. They would say: The president wants the party to succeed in order to hit at the other parties. You see. He could have contested the verdict. We contested the verdict, and the doors were closed. You tell me what shall we do? [laughter and applause]

As long as the procedure is legal, I have no dispute with anyone or with any party. Absolutely not. They won the case properly. Why should I be angry? I want a counteropinion. I want constructive opinions. I am neither with Al-Wafd nor against it. I am with everyone who works for the good of Egypt, whether it be Al-Wafd or anyone else. I am with it. [applause] I am with everyone who works in favor of reducing the suffering of the toiling people in our country. [applause]

There is another lighthearted point [laughter]. Excuse me, I collect these lighthearted points. As you know, the revolution went through certain circumstances like any other revolution. We shall not comment on this. There was President Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir, may God bless his soul, and then President as-Sadat, may God bless his soul, and then the present conditions we are in. You can see the freedom and what is being published in the newspapers. No one says to the papers what to write. We say nothing. What is strange is the recent appearance of the committee for defense of freedoms. What is this? And then the appearance of the committee for defense of democracy. My God, what is this? I said to myself: Perhaps they have been defending freedom and democracy since 1952. I can't understand it. I found out who is in these committees. Our brothers in these committees, with my respect to them, have been in positions of responsibility since the outbreak of the revolution. [applause] We want to know the motive. I do not mean to insult anyone. But I say that this does not make sense. You were in positions of responsibility, and you had a responsibility from the outbreak of the revolution until today. Things should not be like this: defending freedoms at a time when there are freedoms? What more can we do? People accuse me of failure to maintain control. I can not get a break, but I am being patient.

I hope that we take an objective view of all these subjects so that our march can proceed on the right and sound path. No one will live more than his age, and no one is going to take anything extra, and no one is going to take two newspapers with him to the grave. [laughter and applause] Nevertheless, we are not at all against constructive criticism and not against counteropinion, and I stress this.

We shall proceed with democracy and freedom within the limits that will not lead to the collapse of our social system. You must take into consideration the conditions around us. I say to our brothers: We must take into consideration the conditions around us. We live in an area exposed to those around it. There are states in which there is no democracy or freedom, and they slander us. They say: This is a country in which there is no democracy or freedom. This is strange. I keep silent. What can I say? I laugh, and leave things to God. They say we have no freedom, as if they have much freedom. Brothers and sisters, members of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council: These are some of our ideas about national action at home in the coming period.

I would like to review the outlines of our foreign policy in the coming period at the pan-Arab and international levels. At this point, it is imperative for me to emphasize that, since having been honored by the confidence of this great people, I have committed myself to making our foreign policy proceed toward the achievement of the following goals:

1. A total commitment to seeking a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. This is the basic line that we do not forsake or bargain over. A just and lasting peace signifies the guaranteeing of the legitimate rights of all the parties to the conflict in the Middle East, including the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and their right to set up their national entity in their land. These are the people whose cause has represented the essence of the conflict in the area over the past 35 years.

We also call on the Palestinian leadership to seek to unify their statements and to pursue a studied policy that would exploit the clear international sympathy that has been achieved for their just cause. At the same time, we call on the moderate Israeli forces to play an efficacious role to deepen the concept of a peace that is not built on oppressive force, on the building of settlements, on the continuing occupation of others' territories, or on the domination of others' destinies.

Let everybody understand that peace is the natural option for the area's peoples and their lasting hope for a better future — a future in which they will not drown in the possibilities of war, nor be threatened by the omens of destruction.

There can be no doubt that the tragic developments in Lebanon, as well as the bloody incidents that are occurring daily in its land, represent an extremely grave situation and are a new addition to the flaming situation in the Middle East.

We have always demanded that hands be taken off fraternal Lebanon ever since its tribulation began. We now repeat the same call and we demand that Israel withdraw from Lebanese territory as a beginning of the consolidation of the Lebanese state's authority, so it can restore security and lay the groundwork for a national conciliation that would achieve a solution agreeable to all the Lebanese sides, within the framework of the legitimacy that would preserve Lebanon's regional unity and territorial integrity.

It is imperative for the peace we aspire for to engulf the whole area and to bring it stability after many years of disturbance, suffering, and tension.

I want to inform you that I have held concerted efforts with some fraternal leaders of the sisterly Arab states, [applause] as well as with the heads of the states contributing to the Multinational Force in Lebanon to warn against the heightening acts of violence and murder. We believe violence breeds only a greater tendency toward murder, destruction, and ruination. We also believe a rational reply to criminal and terrorist acts would be solidarity between the area's states and the other states concerned over the cause of peace. This solidarity would be aimed at taking measures to guarantee that these inhuman actions, which are in no one's interest and do not prevent harm, do not recur. The only result of these actions would be more bloodshed, heightened chaos, and reversed aims.

In a letter I sent to President Reagan, I have made a point of mentioning that the correct reply to all the incidents going on in the area would be to turn in all seriousness and insistence to settling the pending issues, particularly the Palestinian issue and the liquidation of the Israeli occupation [wa tasfiyatu al-ihtilal al-israel'ili] of the Arab territories in Syria, the West Bank, and the Gaza sector. Furthermore, I noted the consequences of any Arab country being again exposed to aggression by any side, irrespective of the pretexts and of the fabricated reasons.

In my letter to the U.S. President following the bombings that took place, I mentioned that if violence is used, it would breed only violence. However, the cessation of engaging in violence, murder, destruction, and ruination could be achieved only through Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon under a timetable to its international border. This is the first step. [applause] Simultaneously, it is imperative that the Reagan initiative be revived and that a solution for the Palestinian issue be initiated, because it is the core of the issue. Furthermore, without a solution to the Palestinian issue peace will absolutely not prevail in the area.

2. Egypt is a part of the Arab nation; it does not split from the Arab nation, nor does it forsake the Arab nation's causes. The reason is that Egypt's Arabism is not a garment that we wear when we want and that anyone who so wants can remove from us. The area's ancient and modern history affirms that Egypt's role is one that has been imposed by destiny and by the realities of history. Egypt is the first line of defense of its nation and of what is holy to this nation. Egypt has not spared sacrifices and it has not hesitated to stand alongside its sisterly states, regardless of the circumstances and dangers. Egypt has permanently and incessantly shouldered a prime responsibility in claiming Arab rights and in defending pan-Arab issues, beginning with the cause of the Palestinian people, whose sufferings we also feel and for the recovery of whose rights we continue to work. I want to emphasize in your presence here that Egypt — its people and leadership — has never forsaken its Arab responsibilities. It is for this reason that Egypt has waged wars and has offered 100,000 martyrs from among its heroic sons. It is also because Egypt has never forsaken its Arab responsibilities that it has channeled its political efforts — in a conscious endeavor — toward the recovery of rights and toward entrenching the foundations of a just and lasting peace for us and for those around us.

Egypt's motivation in the objectives toward which it has headed has always been the achievement of the highest pan-Arab interests through a sincere perspective and comprehension of developments in international and regional changes, as well as through adherence to the firm historical and cultural reality that Egypt's Arabism is its fate and destiny, as well as its life.

Brothers and sisters, the present state of affairs prevailing in the Arab arena and the tragic events taking place in the area day after day presage serious outcomes and involve evil consequences. These developments stir Egypt's pan-Arab conscience and prompt me to repeat the warning by making the following appeal from the highest rostrum in Egypt — your rostrum — to the Arab brothers: I demand that they forget differences and that they rise above stances so that we will all take a realistic attitude toward the facts and developments. There should be a conscious confrontation encompassing truthfulness to our nation and alertness to the changes taking place around us, so we can end the shortsighted policies that have always been contented with merely reiterating slogans and sowing discord.

In its capacity as the eldest sister and from a responsible Arab position, Egypt calls on all to put an end to the long years of suffering, and to make the utmost sincere efforts toward a just and comprehensive peace that will restore to our nation its rights and achieve for this area — which is in the heart of the world — stability, progress, and prosperity. [applause]

3. Support for the Nonaligned Movement and consolidation of its policy: Egypt, which is a founding member of the movement, has played a vanguard role in this connection. It has been a forerunner in pursuing this constructive policy in a world beset by disputes, regional wars, and explosive situations. Egypt has sought to strengthen the foundations of the movement and has shouldered its historic responsibility toward its continuity. It has always given the movement a new momentum to enable it to inspire its members' efforts toward reducing international tension, resolving disputes among member-states by peaceful means, and avoiding the orbit of this or that state.

Nonalignment essentially means preservation of independent will by deeds and not by mere words, and not giving any big state a privileged status at the expense of the interests of the Third World peoples who are struggling for a better world. Egypt blesses the efforts being made by the movement to put an end to the Iraqi-Iranian war, which is futile and unjustifiable now.

These efforts are an example of what the movement can do in such difficult circumstances.

From an Islamic and pan-Arab standpoint and in addition to its nonaligned role, Egypt in turn denounces this war. It calls on Iran to respond to Iraq's offer for an immediate halt to military operations for the sake of their common benefit, to prevent the further shedding of innocent blood, and the squandering of funds and resources on a war which cannot be condoned by any believer faithful to his religion or any Arab loyal to his Arabism.

We record with appreciation the stand of Iraq which has put forward several initiatives to put an end to this war. It remains for the other party to shoulder its responsibility before its God, people, and Islamic nation.

These are some of the tenets of Egyptian foreign policy, which believes that Egypt is Arab in heart and mind, Islamic in spirit and conscience, and African in location and affiliation. Egypt believes in peace for itself and for its neighbors. It upholds its civilized message in developing relations among people. It strives to achieve the objectives of mankind in progress and prosperity.

Brothers and sisters, while reviewing our foreign policy, I have a last remark to make. A few days ago Egypt was elected a member of the Security Council with an overwhelming majority. [applause] This is a significant and far-reaching event. It is a new admission by the international society of the role Egypt is playing on regional and international levels to maintain world peace and security. It is also an affirmation of the dire need for this role at this stage of escalating conflicts and crises, in which the international society is facing a situation where it must choose between existence and nonexistence and between destruction and progress.

I would like to seize this opportunity to convey, on behalf of the faithful Egyptian people, our sincerest appreciation and thankfulness to the fraternal African peoples, [applause] who took the initiative in nominating Egypt for this post. These people made another gesture, thus confirming their nobility and true faith in solidarity and unity among the peoples struggling for the sake of this objective. [applause] Moreover, I would like to commend the stand of fraternal Morocco and Algeria [applause] which conceded their nominations in favor of Egypt out of their appreciation of Egypt's pan-Arab and international role. Egypt pledges to all friends, who sided with it on this occasion, to advocate peace and love among peoples and to reject wars, violence, and the policy of the use of force. We will be on the forefront among those forces which are calling for an objective and constructive dialogue between the North and South and the East and West. Egypt will reject polarization, conflict, and hostility.

We will be the link among the peoples and civilizations and bring together all the various sides based on our belief in the fact that all the challenges facing us are common. If we fail to coexist in prosperity and love, we will all be exterminated by the destructive wars and lethal weapons.

We will be a force struggling for the sake of freedom and dignity as well as for the sake of political, economic, and ideological independence for the Third World peoples. We will fight the policy of domination, exploitation, and spheres of influence. We will also side with justice, righteousness, and equality and we will be against violence, injustice, infringement upon rights, and the humiliation of human rights. [applause] We will be an additional weight to the Third World force in Africa, Asia, and Latin America which is struggling for the sake of progress, security, and peace. Brothers and sisters: I hope I did not keep you too long, but as we are opening the last session of your esteemed council, I deem it my duty to register with appreciation and thankfulness your sincere efforts and painstaking work ever since our great people had confidence in you and entrusted you with the honor of representing them. May I recall, for example, the following two basic accomplishments:

First, it is this council that laid down the legislative foundations of integration between the two fraternal peoples in Egypt and Sudan. [applause] It is the hope that our past generations had aspired to and the one that our future generations will defend with faith and vigilance. This is because the unity of the Nile valley is a cultural and historical fact in terms of geography and manpower. All that we are now doing on the road of integration is in tempo with the nature of events and the logic of truth.

Second, it is this esteemed council that initiated the 5-year plan. The government is seriously implementing this plan in an attempt to attain a deeply-rooted and strong national economy. It is the plan with which we hope to realize a shining and better future. We are living the present with all its problems and gains. We are moving toward the future with its hopes and challenges. We believe in God and the homeland. We also are aware that this great people who always surmounted crises and ordeals, are today capable of giving and of offering sacrifices, and are confident of their power to shape their life in accordance with their hopes and aspirations. May God grant us success and guide our steps. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Mubarak Receives Iraqi, Jordanian Messages

NC072213 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2155 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak today received messages from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Jordanian King Husayn. MENA has learned that the two messages pertain to the important and grave developments in the Middle East, including the Iraq-Iran war. It is worth noting that President Husni Mubarak had mentioned in his speech yesterday at the People's Assembly that there were intensive contacts between him and some brother leaders of fraternal Arab countries. Ambassador Nabil Badr, head of the Jordanian Interests Section in Cairo, arrived in Cairo a few days ago.

Mubarak Discusses PLO Issue With Gaza Leader

NC071420 Cairo MENA in English 1340 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Cairo, Nov 7 (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak today received at the Republican Palace former Mayor of Gaza Rashad Ash-Shawwa, currently visiting here. Emerging from the meeting with President Mubarak, Ash-Shawwa said that he requested Egypt's assistance for the inhabitants of Gaza Strip and the occupied land so that the Palestinians could continue to live there. He further said that he asked President Mubarak for encouraging the import of products manufactured in Gaza and the marketing of the Strip citrus fruit in Egypt.

The Palestinian guest further said in reply to a query that the current situation for them as Palestinians and Arabs was very regrettable, adding that he wished the Arab countries and peoples to adopt a unified stance with regard to the settlement of the Palestinian issue.

Ash-Shawwa also expressed regret over what is taking place in Tripoli but added that this would not affect the presence of the Palestinian cause. Ash-Shawwa said that the area would continue to be volatile and security would not be maintained so long as the cause of the 4.5 million Palestinian living in the Israeli occupied land and around Israel remained unresolved. He added that it is for the interests of the Middle East and Israel that this important issue solved. On his visualization of Egypt's role with regard to the Palestinian issue, Ash-Shawwa said that Egypt is the biggest Arab country in the area and that it adopts a stance that helps settle the Palestinian issue through safeguarding the Palestinian presence and the Arabism of the occupied land.

The Gaza Strip former (Mayor) said, in answer to a query, that the presence of a Palestinian government in exile at present would not help settle the Palestinian problem as the problem is deeper than that.

Ash-Shawwa said that Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yassir 'Arafat has become a symbol of the Palestinian cause, but added that the siege of his forces in Tripoli would not change the situation, for the Palestinian resistance would continue until a comprehensive settlement of the issue is found.

People's Assembly Elects New Speaker 5 Nov

NC052016 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Nov 83

[Text] The members of the People's Assembly tonight elected Dr Muhammad Kamil Laylah as the People's Assembly speaker for the new parliamentary session. He received 332 out of 351 votes by the attending members; there were 19 invalid votes.

The People's Assembly held a session tonight chaired by member Sayyid Jalal who is the eldest member of the Assembly. At the beginning of the meeting Jalal read out the two presidential decrees convoking today's session of the People's Assembly and a joint meeting of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council tomorrow morning.

Dr Laylah presided over the session. He made a speech stressing his commitment to the constitution and complete impartiality toward the members of the Assembly regardless of their party affiliation. Dr Laylah affirmed that there is no banning of opinion, restriction of thought, or subjection of will. He said the differences of opinion [words indistinct] for the sake of serving the interests of the country.

The People's Assembly speaker pointed out that the Assembly's supervision of the government is exceedingly important in revealing the areas of right and wrong in the government's work. This supervision should be based on an objective and fair evaluation which notes the positive points and remedies the negative ones.

Speaking about the opposition, Dr Laylah said the opposition is able to participate in promoting the national march by providing well-studied opinions and unbiased criticism which avoids sneering and smearing, and by joining the government in the all-embracing confrontation of the people's problems. Dr Laylah said the minority should respect the majority's opinion, just as the majority should not ignore the minority's opinion. Afterward, Prime Minister Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, former People's Assembly Speaker Sufi Abu Talib, and several members addressed the Assembly. The meeting was then adjourned until the next meeting on Monday morning.

The People's Assembly and the Consultative Council will hold a joint meeting tomorrow to hear the speech by the president inaugurating the new parliamentary session.

AL-ANBA': Egypt To Increase Military Aid to Iraq

GF041354 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 3 Nov 83 p 1

[Dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] *AL-ANBA'* has learned that an agreement has been hammered out between Cairo and Baghdad according to which Egypt will increase its military aid to Iraq, particularly in the aviation field. An Egyptian military delegation led by the commander of the Air Force is expected to visit Baghdad in the next few days to discuss the means of cooperation and the desired backing.

AL-AKHBAR on Air Force Strength, Anniversary

NC030955 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 3 Nov 83

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] In its editorial today, *AL-AKHBAR* comments on our Air Force, saying the Air Force has reached a level enabling it to handle the responsibilities imposed by a state of war. The Air Force now has an arm long enough to reach any battlefront, as the Israelis say. In it victories over the Arabs, Israel depended completely on its Air Force and considered it to be the force that achieved victory. For this reason, Israel focused all its attention on strengthening its Air Force, promoting training and preparation, and preparing well-trained pilots, who cannot be trained easily.

We have pursued and looked forward to the consolidation and promotion of the training and preparation of our own Air Force in keeping with advanced and developed methods in all spheres. Yesterday was the 51st anniversary of the establishment of the Egyptian Air Force and Training Day [conclusion of 1982-83 training year].

President Mubarak attended the celebration and praised the Air

Force training efforts and its progress in achieving a strong and very long arm capable of crushing any aggression against Egypt or any attempt to divert Egypt from the strength and training it must have.

Egypt Dismisses Reports on Military Aid to 'Arafat

NC062223 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 6 Nov 83

[Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA) — Commenting on a Western news agency's report that an Egyptian ship arrived at Tripoli port in northern Lebanon yesterday carrying a consignment of arms to the PLO forces under Yasir 'Arafat, a responsible Egyptian source said the following:

The Egyptian authorities have no knowledge of this matter. Egypt's support for the PLO under Yasir 'Arafat does in no way mean intervening militarily in the conflict.

Communique on Continuing Battle in Panjwin

JN071738 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Communique No 1,272 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 7 November 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

As they continue to fight the spiteful Iranian enemy and to inflict further losses on its forces, our heroic Armed Forces are also capable, God willing, of perpetuating their victorious operations until final victory. The results of operations last night and today are as follows:

1. This morning, the enemy forces attempted to attack some of our valiant forward units in the Panjwin area of the I Army Corps sector. Our courageous forces confronted the enemy attack and clashed with enemy units in a heroic battle using various weapons. With intensive fire support from our powerful artillery and daring helicopter gunships, our forces foiled the enemy attack and destroyed its forces after inflicting heavy losses in men, weapons, and equipment.

2. All day today, our daring fighter planes and helicopter gunships continued to attack enemy postions, troop concentrations, and vehicles opposite our units forward positions in the Panjwin area of the I Army Corps sector, scoring effective, direct hits. Other formations of our fighter planes carried out continuous raids on enemy concentrations and units in the same sector, inflicting heavy losses on enemy vehicles and equipment. All of our planes and helicopters returned safely to their bases, thanks be to God. Today, our planes carried out 88 combat missions and our helicopters 32 missions.

3. One of our forward units surrounded an enemy patrol unit that attempted to advance toward our forward positions in the area east of Basra. Our units captured two enemy soldiers with their weapons. The rest of the patrol personnel were killed. In another area of the same sector, our units destroyed an 81-mm enemy mortar and killed those manning it. Our units also destroyed a weapons emplacement and a hardware stockpile.

4. One enemy infantry position was destroyed in the central sector of the front.

5. The tyrant Khomeyniite clique today used artillery to shell Mandali and its environs, the township of Sayyid Sadiq, and the (Shandri) area. The enemy shelling damaged a number of civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 7 November 1983.

Officer on Panjwin Battles

JN071512 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Nov (INA) — An Iraqi officer in the Iraqi Presidential Guards Brigade stated that a force under his command successfully controlled the hills in a triangle in the Panjwin area after destroying the Iranian units in them.

In a statement to an INA team, the officer said that this force attacked the Iranian positions in the hills on Friday afternoon and managed to remove them from the area by sunset of that day. His force was stationed on top of the hills.

He stressed that his force repulsed scores of Iranian attempts to reoccupy the area, killing 346 Iranians. He explained that the attacking Iranian units withdrew to the nearby valleys and passes following the failure of their offensives.

Saddam Husayn Praises Presidential Guards

JN050833 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0700 GMT 5 Nov 83

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

From Saddam Husayn to the men of the Presidential Guard:

Blessed heroes of the proud Presidential Guard, my heart is full of joy at your heroic deed on the night of 4-5 November while the hearts of the enemies are full of bitterness. As usual, you have been first-class men among the first-class men of our great Army which has replenished the records of our Arab history with honorable and brilliant stands in support of the Arab shield facing the ill winds which have been blowing against the Arab nation from everywhere. This is so while the brilliant deeds of the Iraqi Army have brought down the stands of weakness, humiliation, and defeat and have reached the peak of mankind's actions and the actions of the entire armies in the world.

Your unique and heroic stands in fighting the enemy of Iraq and the enemy of God on your pure soil last night — when you attacked the enemy's positions and tore the enemy to pieces while the remnants of the enemy fled in terror in the face of your harsh blows — and when last night you destroyed all the enemy's desperate attempts with special capability, maintaining your positions on the peaks of our lofty mountains — I say that through these stands, and through other tangible realities, you have proved that the Iraqis are of the same breed and that any default in their performance in any field is due to one of two factors or to both of these factors: training or the commanding officers.

Beloved men, the heroes of the I Army Corps sector and everywhere else; how splendid are the men and their values, and how splendid are the principles of life when the blessed heroes transform them, with the help of a unique command and accurate implementation of the tasks of the defense of the homeland, into tangible realities over which the sun will never set.

O men of our great Army, you have done this in all the immortal heroic feats, and history will record them with pride and appreciation, surrounding them with scintillating banners which will make your brothers in the other countries of the homeland exult and others envy you.

How splendid is this great Army which records these immortal meanings and feats in the fourth year of fighting. Despite all this, O heroes of our valiant Army, your people still expect from you the final result which will be, with God's help, that of leading your enemy to a state of impotence and safeguarding the components of life, its vitality, and its bountiful offerings and sacrifices as was the case on the first day of the war. If not more so, we can say to the sons of the nation, of which we are a part, and to the world at large: This is how the Iraqi sons act; these are our deeds, and that is how we have safeguarded honor, principles, and sovereignty.

O heroes, the beloved men in our Presidential Guard, we have responded to your persistence in participating with your brothers from time to time, the heroes of the Armed Forces, in defending the homeland in the forward battlefronts and where there are difficult stands. You have fulfilled the pledge and have added another brilliant point to your stature and have given meaning to your stand as your brothers did before.

Blessed are you and may God bless the Army to which you belong. Greetings to you and greetings to the heroes of our Army in the I Army Corps. We ask God to grant us success. We thank God for giving us this unique breed of men in our great Army and its Presidential Guard. God is great.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, 5 November 1983

Dailies Comment on Recent Iranian Offensive

JN041010 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 4 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Nov (INA) — Two local newspapers today emphasize that the Iraqi response to the new Iranian aggression will be tougher and more violent and deterring than ever before.

The *ATH-THAWRAH* editorial says the Iraqi reply this time will be harsher and more violent than the Iranian rulers can imagine. It adds that the new aggression against the Panjwin area indicates those rulers' belittlement of the international community's will and embodies the state of despair and disarray they are undergoing after the failure of their hostile scheme.

It asserts that the Iraqi forces will crush the new offensive and shatter the remaining part of the Iranian rulers' dreams in a manner that will make them understand that it is easier for them to get the stars than to occupy an inch of Iraqi territory. The paper stresses that Iraq, with the military means and capabilities at its disposal, is determined to put an end to the enemy's arrogance and intransigence and to force it to recognize all our legitimate rights and vital interests. It adds that Iraq's patience toward the Iranian rulers' foolish and rash deeds has run out and Iraq is now entitled to act and use all methods to make the expansionsit aggressors understand that their intransigence and insistence on war will cost them the dearest price they have ever paid. It indicates that the Iranian regime alone is held responsible before world public opinion and the Iranian people for the harm, damage, and destruction which will be inflicted on Iran.

AL-JUMHURIYAH stresses that the Iraqi forces will mercilessly crush the new Iranian aggression. It adds: Iraq is excused to do so because the Iranian rulers did not take our advice and persisted in aggression. Therefore, Iraq has the right to strike at them the way it wants in defense of its sacred soil, its people's dignity, and its options and accomplishments.

It notes that the I Army Corps men, who are confronting the new aggression, are now fighting off this aggression in the name of life and future.

Daily Sees Link Between Gulf, Palestinian Wars

JN071138 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Nov (INA) — The newspaper *ATH-THAWRAH* stresses that the Iranian aggression against the northern sector and the Syrian-Libyan onslaught against the Palestinian revolution are two faces of one plot aimed at fragmenting the Arab nation's entity and partitioning the Arab homeland into ministates subjected to the Zionist-Persian hegemony.

In an editorial headlined "One Scheme and Interchangeable Roles," the paper adds: Once again roles are exchanged between the plotting parties. The Syrian regime —on behalf of the Zionist-imperialist alliance —took upon itself the task of slaughtering the Palestinian revolution and completing the links of the filthy plot which the Zionist enemy began in Beirut, Sabra, and Shatila, and in which the enemy failed to achieve all its hostile aims.

The paper recalls how the Iranian offensive east of Basra in 1982 and the Zionist army's siege of Beirut and its occupation of a third of Lebanese territory happened at the same time. It wonders if the new Iranian offensive against Iraq in the Panjwin area in the northern sector and the attack on the Palestinian revolution forces and the legitimate Palestinian leadership were not accurately planned and timed to take place simultaneously.

ATH-THAWRAH stresses that the suspect Iranian regime is an accomplice in the plot against the Palestinian revolution. It adds: The Iranian regime's blatant support for Fatah's dissidence as well as its declared alliance with the Zionist entity and continuation of aggression against Iraq are not only aimed at fulfilling its expansionist intentions and ambitions, but also at preoccupying Iraq and preventing it from performing its pan-Arab tasks and duties.

It says: The continuing Iranian aggression against Iraq represents the most dangerous link in the Zionist-colonialist plotting against the Arab nation. Had it not been for Iraq's preoccupation in confronting this aggression, Israel could not have invaded Lebanon or committed the ugliest massacres against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. Had it not been for the circumstances of the Iranian aggression, Israel could not have attacked the nuclear reactor, and those holders of Arab identity would not have dared to besiege the Palestinian revolution in a bid to split the unity of its ranks and impose their trusteeship on it as is happening now.

Concluding, the paper asserts that solidarity and effective joint Arab action are the only means to safeguard the future of theArab nation's sovereignty, land, and existence, and the only way to protect this nation's independence and basic interests.

Tariq 'Aziz Praises Relations With France

PM071424 Paris LE MATIN in French 3 Nov 83 p 2

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz by Charles Saint-Prost in Baghdad — date not given]

[Text] Charles Saint-Prost: Following the recent campaign against the supply of the French Super Etendard aircraft to Iraq, is it possible to say that this affair is now being settled?

Tariq 'Aziz: Since 1968 French-Iraqi relations have been based on a strategic analysis and on the same desire for national independence. Of course those relations have undergone some delicate moments, and the Super Etendard question has been the thorniest problem recently. Iraq is now completely satisfied because the French Government kept its promises by delivering the aircraft in October. The aircraft are now in Iraq.

The Super Etendard affair, which caused too much fuss, is now over. Nonetheless, it was positive because it made it possible to test the strength of French-Iraqi cooperation under the socialist government, which inherited this policy that started under Georges Pompidou and continued under Valery Giscard d'Estaing. The French Government, which has understood that it is in France's own interest to continue to cooperate with Iraq, has been faithful to the friendship between our two countries. It has behaved like a great power which can be trusted, and it will not regret it.

Charles Saint-Prost: But the French Government had to withstand an extraordinary campaign...

Tariq 'Aziz: Yes. A campaign inspired by foreign countries and aimed at sabotaging our ties of friendship. That campaign — which was taken up by some French press organs — started in the United States, Britain, and Israel. They are countries which are supplying Iran with arms or facilities in various ways and are in no position to lecture others.

But Iraqi diplomacy reacted as soon as that campaign started. I saw the Americans, who had contacted us themselves, and I explained to them that their alleged fears were unfounded. I met with Mr Shultz on 30 September, and I showed him that the United States did not have a correct view of the situation. Indeed, if you analyze the facts it is clear that Iran was bluffing, and it is absurd that the Western countries should have paid attention to Tehran's blustering, especially to the threats relating to freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz. Even if Iran was able to close the strait, the Arab states and the Western countries could tolerate the situation for a few months, and after a few weeks Iran would be stifled: It would be suicide. I was surprised that the United States took that seriously, but it has now changed and accepts that Tehran was bluffing, and the American press has done a complete about-face. It would be useful for those who tried to alarm French opinion to reconsider their positions.

Charles Saint-Prost: Did the uncertainties about the delivery of the Super Etendard aircraft worry you?

Tariq 'Aziz: No. As I told the Western countries, Iraq has never been hard-pressed, and other countries are prepared to replace any which backed down or disappointed us.

Charles Saint-Prost: Are you thinking of the Soviet Union?

Tariq 'Aziz: I am thinking of the Soviet Union and others. This is not blackmail but a realistic assessment of the situation; Iraq does not have such limited choices as its enemies claim. I would like to add that we have seen Arab ranks closing around us and friendly Arab countries (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt, Jordan...) are now giving clear support to Iraq, which is strong on the international stage.

Charles Saint-Prost: Thus France is not taking an excessive risk by honoring its contracts with Iraq?

Tariq 'Aziz: As President Saddam Husayn said during his recent press conference, France has made a choice in keeping with its essential interests and the cause of peace. It is a good choice because Iraq is a strong country which is not a burden to its friends and has real influence, as is proved by our double diplomatic victory in the Super Etendard affair and in the adoption of the very recent Security Council resolution (30 October). That resolution, which reaffirms in particular the right of free navigation in the gulf and calls for a cease-fire, in fact adopts Iraq's peace proposals, especially the ideas expressed by President Saddam Husayn in the letter to the Iranian people in June 1983 and those I put forward at the United Nations on 29 September. France proposed that resolution, which was supported by Washington and Moscow. We fully support it because it is positive.

Charles Saint-Prost: But Khomeyni does not seem prepared to accept a settlement...

Tariq 'Aziz: Khomeyni bears sole responsibility for the war which he launched on 4 September 1980, which he is trying to prolong by buying arms even from Israel. If the Iranian regime persists in its aggression we will give a massive response and nobody will be able to criticize us for it.

Charles Saint-Prost: By using the Super Etendard aircraft?

Tariq 'Aziz: We will use all the means at our disposal to restore peace.

Charles Saint-Prost: Although there is no doubt that Iraq has emerged in a stronger diplomatic and political position from the "trial of strength" sparked off by the Super Etendard affair, has your country's economic and financial situation progressed?

Tariq 'Aziz: The essential problem is financial and is due to the closing of the oil pipeline to Syria by the Damascus regime, which has stabbed us in the back. Although 1983 was a difficult year, the Iraqi economy did not collapse and we are beginning to make considerable progress. The capacity of the oil pipeline to Turkey has increased (around 1 million barrels per day); we have taken financial readjustment measures which are already bearing fruit. The situation will improve further from 1984 because we have secured Saudi Arabia's agreement for the construction of an oilpipeline which will cross its territory. In the initial phase we will link our oilfields to the Saudi oil pipeline and, in a second phase, we will construct an independent oil pipeline.

Charles Saint-Prost: You are not talking of reopening the oil pipeline closed by Damascus...

Tariq 'Aziz: I met with the Syrian foreign minister in New York in the company of the Saudi and Kuwaiti mediators; that did not produce a change in the Syrian attitude, but those meetings had the advantage of showing the various mediators that it is the Syrian Government alone that is responsible for the crisis. That probably explains the strengthening of Arab links around Iraq.

Charles Saint-Prost: Is it out of the question for Iraq to make concessions in exchange for the reopening of the oil pipeline to Syria?

Tariq 'Aziz: You know that our country does not give in to blackmail and scheming, especially not when they are shameful.

There has been talk in the West of "sacrificing" the PLO or Lebanon to pay the price of reopening the oil pipeline; I have not heard anything of the kind, but if that was the case, I say that Iraq would refuse because we support and will continue to fully support the cause of the PLO, which embodies the Palestinian resistance. As regards Lebanon, our attitude is also clear in favor of the sovereignty, integrity, and unity of that Arab country, which must be freed from the Israeli occupiers and the Syrian presence.

Hasan 'Ali Receives CSSR Transportation Minister

JN051452 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Nov (INA) — Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and minister of trade, received here today Vladimir Blazek, CSSR minister of transportation, and the delegation accompanying him. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the development of cooperation between the CSSR and Iraq in the economic, trade, and technical fields in the service of the two friendly peoples' interests. The CSSR ambassador in Baghdad attended the meeting.

Meeting With Planning Minister

JN051909 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Nov (INA) — Planning Minister Dr Samal Majid Faraj received CSSR Transportation Minister Vladimir Blazek and his delegation here today. The two sides discussed the ways to bolster trade and technical cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Oil Minister Meets Blazek

JN061249 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1144 GMT 6 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Nov (INA) — Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi today met with CSSR Transportation Minister Vladimir Blazek and his accompanying delegation currently visiting Iraq to attend the 20th Baghdad International Fair.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged viewpoints on the promotion of the cooperation relations between the two friendly countries, especially in the field of oil projects. The two ministers expressed satisfaction with the CSSR's good performance in implementing the development projects in Iraq. They also reviewed the means to promote the future cooperation in the service of their joint interests.

UK State Trade Minister Arrives on Visit

JN070855 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Nov (INA) — Paul Channon, British minister of state for trade, arrived here at dawn today on a 2-day visit to Iraq. It was announced here that Channon's talks with the Iraqi officials will focus on promoting bilateral trade relations.

Meeting With Counterpart

JN071442 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Nov (INA) — Iraqi Trade Minister Hasan 'Ali met here today with Paul Channon, British minister of state for trade, and his accompanying delegation. The two sides exchanged viewpoints on the importance of the results of the recent visit Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, paid to the United Kingdom and the impact it will have on the development of economic, trade, and technical cooperation between the two countries.

Ramadan Receives Channon

JN071802 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Nov (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, met here today with Paul Channon, British minister of state for trade. Taha Yasin Ramadan expressed his satisfaction with the bolstering of relations between Iraq and Britain in various spheres which serves both peoples' common interests.

The first deputy prime minister asked Paul Channon to convey to Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher his greetings, his satisfaction with the positive results of the talks he held with her in London, and Iraq's interest and desire to bolster its relations with Britain. Taha Yasin Ramadan reviewed Iraq's sound economic situation, the strategic projects being implemented in the country, and future projects. He said that these projects will give the national economy momentum, and that Iraq will continue with its construction and development plans regardless of the duration of the war.

The British minister conveyed to the first deputy prime minister the greetings of Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, her government's desire to promote cooperation with Iraq, and her satisfaction with the existing ties between the two countries. Channon asserted that British companies are ready and anxious to participate in the implementation of new projects in Iraq and expressed his country's confidence in Iraq's economy and abundant resources. He highly praised Iraq's course of development and its future planning for construction and development.

Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi also met here today with Paul Channon, British minister of state for trade, and his delegation. During the meeting, they exchanged views on bolstering the existing cooperation between the two friendly countries, especially in oil projects.

Both ministers expressed satisfaction with the good way in which British companies are implementing development projects in Iraq. The two ministers reviewed ways of strengthening future cooperation to achieve both countries' common interests.

Trade Minister Confers With Irish Counterpart

JN071215 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Nov (INA) — Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister, met here today with Cluskey, Irish minister of trade and tourism, who is currently in Iraq to attend the 20th Baghdad International Fair. The two sides exchanged viewpoints on the ways to promote bilateral economic cooperation and prepare for next year's Dublin session of the joint Iraqi-Irish committee for economic, trade, and technical cooperation. Cluskey praised the convocation of the 20th Baghdad International Fair despite the war circumstances and indicated Iraq's important status and extensive relations with the world countries.

Labor, Social Affairs Minister Leaves for UAE

JN071612 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 7 Nov (INA) — Bakr Mahmud Rasul, Iraqi minister of labor and social affairs, left Baghdad for Abu Dhabi today heading a delegation on a visit to the UAE. In a statement to INA, Rasul said that during the visit he will sign a technical cooperation agreement between the two fraternal countries in the sphere of labor and social affairs.

Saddam Husayn, King Fahd Hold Telephone Contact

JN062121 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 6 Nov 83

[Text] A telephone contact was held this morning between President leader Saddam Husayn and his brother His Majesty Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. During the conversation, His Majesty King Fahd expressed his wishes for Iraq to be victorious and affirmed Saudi Arabia's stand alongside Iraq in its holy battle in defense of the Arab nation.

Saddam Congratulates Andropov, Tikhonov on GOSR

JN061002 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0848 GMT 6 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Nov (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has congratulated Yuriy Andropov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and Nikolay Tikhonov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, on the anniversary of the October socialist revolution. The following is the text of the cable:

His Excellency Yuriy Andropov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium,

His Excellency Nikolay Tikhonov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers,

On the occasion of your celebrating the anniversary of the October socialist revolution, I would like to send you, on behalf of Iraq and in my own name, heartfelt greetings and congratulations, wishing you good health and happiness, the friendly Soviet people further progress, and the friendly relations of fruitful cooperation between our two countries development and strength so as to serve the joint interests of our friendly peoples and promote our joint struggle to realize just peace and security in the world.

Syrian Opposition Front Denounces Al-Asad

JN072300 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Nov (INA) — The National Alliance for the Liberation of Syria has called on Arab leaders to put an end to the massacre that is being perpetrated against the Palestinian revolution in Tripoli by murderer Hafiz al-Asad.

In a cable to the Arab leaders today, the secretariat general of the National Alliance for the Liberation of Syria pointed out that Hafiz al-Asad's relations with the Palestinian revolution and people have been a series of massacres ever since he usurped power in Syria, and can be compared only to the massacres that terrorist Begin committed against our Palestinian people.

The alliance stressed that Hafiz al-Asad, who has not desisted from exploiting slogans and outbidding free men, is fighting the Palestinian revolution on behalf of the Zionist enemy and is working to undermine this revolution in the service of the enemy's designs.

The national alliance added that sedition, rebellion, and dissidence can be found only where Al-Asad is found and that those who have failed the Palestinian revolution during its holy war against the Zionist enemy in Beirut have now found a job for their tanks and artillery to perform — shelling the Palestinian refugee camps and exterminating the Palestinian Arab people.

In its cable to the Arab leaders, the National Alliance for the Liberation of Syria said: The Arab nation is waiting for your moves toward our Palestinian people and their revolution which has won the world's admiration and the recognition of the majority of its countries.

King Husayn Kuwait AS-SIYASAH Interview

JN051115 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Nov 83 p 22

[Interview granted by King Husayn to Ahmad Jarallah, chief editor and proprietor of the Kuwaiti paper *AS-SIYASAH*, in Amman, and published simultaneously in the three Amman dailies *AR-RA'Y, AD-DUSTUR*, and *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* — date of interview not given]

[Text] Amman — It would be unwise and an exaggeration on my part to say that His Majesty King Husayn is the same and has not changed. Although he denies his despair and sorrow, any judicious man can see that on his face.

I toured the city before going to the Royal Palace. When our car passed through one of the quarters, a friend of mine who was riding with me in the car remarked: An attempt to assassinate His Majesty King Husayn occurred at this spot. It was one of several attempts. My friend's remark brought to mind the long reel of events experienced by the Arab world. I remembered King Husayn's many confrontations and how he used to always say: "our shoulders are broad enough to carry every distress."

The meeting, which took place in the king's office, lasted 2 hours. The man was speaking with bitterness. He was torn between making his talk frank and direct despite its sorrows, or diplomatic and with less impact. I began by telling the king: I have many questions which I would like to put to you as a man who is fully conversant with the affairs of the Arab homeland. I hope that Your Majesty will have the time to discuss these questions with me, since I would like this to be a discussion rather than a press interview.

His majesty the king did not object. He welcomed the idea, saying: "Let it be so." My personal observation was that the king was in deep sorrow no matter how he tried to conceal it. It was like the sorrow of the philosopher who carried the lantern and went about searching for the missing truth.

Question: Your Majesty, you were in Southeast Asia, what was the significance of your visit?

Answer: It was a visit whose positive aspects were not clear to me in advance. I discovered a great deal during that visit. Our contacts hitherto had been with the West and we completely ignored great and important nations: China with its vast human mass which has proved its greatness by its precise orderliness, tidiness, and ability to face the challenges; and Korea, which has rebuilt itself from scratch after the war despite the problems of its northern border. It was indeed a great feat. My visit to their northern border reminded me of what we are facing here. These great nations made me recall the glories of the idea of positive, neutral states and the possibilities of exploiting this neutrality politically. I asked myself: Why should we only turn to the West? Why should we not turn to our friends in the East? It is a call to all Arab officials to pay attention to that vast sector of the world. Cooperating with that sector and winning it over as a power on our side will benefit the issues of our Arab world. It was a positive visit and I did not expect it to be so successful.

Question: Your Majesty, people in Jordan and the Arab world are saying that the Jordanian role is no longer as active as it used to be in the Arab political sphere. Have you despaired, Your Majesty? Please be frank, because I am talking to you as a citizen, not a journalist.

Answer: It is not my nature to despair. But it is the sorrow perhaps. Still, this does not mean that the Jordanian role has receded. We act within the limits of our abilities. The fears which we expressed once are now the series of events witnessed by the people and the Arab arena. Lebanon has been destroyed and Israel has obtained an unequal agreement from it. There is also the war in Iraq and the threats to the Gulf. All these things would not have happened, had we retained the forms of Arab cooperation we agreed on and the basic institutions of such cooperation. Where is the Collective Arab Defense Pact with regard to what is happening in the Iraq war? Who has violated this pact?

Iraq is in a war with Iran. How this war took place can be discussed later. The main thing is that Iraq is in a war with Iran and we must stand by its side so that the dimensions of this war will not spread to cover other objectives. The Jordanian role exists but the structure of Arab cooperation has been tampered with.

Question: Your Majesty, we will go into the details of this question later on, but let me ask you now about Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. Why did the Jordanian-Palestinian negotiations fail?

Answer: We prepared a cooperation plan in which we agreed to all the amendments proposed by Brother Yasir 'Arafat. Then he requested to return to Kuwait for consultations with the Fatah members. He promised that he would return in 24 hours. He said that he personally agreed to what was in the agreement after the amendments to it. We also did not hesitate in our approval of it. But up to now, he has not returned.

Question: Your Majesty, my question is why had the talks failed. Is their failure due to you or to Yasir 'Arafat?

Answer: The talks failed for many reasons. Some of these reasons are that Israel worked to foil, geographically, U.S. President Reagan's initiative. There was the issue of the settlements which had been set up in the West Bank. We were promised that pressures would be exerted on Israel so that something might be done, and the atmosphere in the world was prepared, particularly in the wake of the Sabra and Shatila massacres. But Israel and the Begin government rejected this U.S. initiative. Some parties within the PLO also adopted a negative stand, and some Arab parties also made the PLO believe that they are capable of obtaining more than what Jordan had obtained from the United States. This promise bolstered the stand of some of the negative elements who, originally, were against Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation. Since approval in the PLO needs unanimity, the idea of cooperation was aborted. On our part, we believed that the time was suitable and we were hoping that matters would progress after the agreement; particularly since such an agreement would have taken place in the third month of the current year, before the preoccupation with the U.S. presidency and with the issue of presidential elections.

The Jordanian-Palestinian agreement has failed and the fears we raised at the time are now a series of events which are daily being experienced. The circumstances that were available then have disappeared. Israel has now succeeded in overcoming the world's anger against it for the Sabra and Shatila massacres. Also, there is a preoccupation with the U.S. presidency and with the elections.

Question: Your Majesty, let us forget what happened. What is your opinion about what has been said that 'Arafat is now talking about a resumption of the dialogue on the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement?

Answer: The door is open and we cannot close it. However, several geographic developments have taken place. Israel has established more settlements; the U.S. Presidency is preoccupied with the elections; Israel succeeded in obtaining an unequal agreement with the Lebanese Government; in addition to the serious rift which has taken place in Palestinian action. These are many developments, but they do not mean that we have closed the door. The circumstances for action within the framework of UN Security Council Resolution 242 were available until the third month of the current year. We, however, cannot close the door.

Question: Your Majesty, do you believe that 'Arafat is capable of speaking on behalf of the PLO and what must he do to return as strong as he was?

Answer: 'Arafat can regain his strength. The West Bank and the Gaza Strip still believe in Yasir 'Arafat's leadership. The majority supports him and he can move in this direction to impose his popularity. What is important is that he must not tarry. The time factor may not be in his favor in his attempt to reimpose his leadership. The Palestinian decision must be made by a majority vote, and not a unanimous vote so the Palestinians may avert the same fate that has befallen the Arab world. [sentence as published]

Question: Your Majesty, as I told you, my discussion with you is one between an Arab citizen and one of his leaders. Let me be frank with you: Some say that Syria is exploiting the Palestinian card and that it wants to attend the summit conference only of there is a new Palestinian leadership, perhaps arranged by it. How do you view this?

Answer: Yes, this is true and extremely serious. Syria wants to exploit the Palestinian card, the Lebanese card, and the card of the Iraqi war, that is, the Gulf war. Let it exploit these cards if this serves the Arabs interests, but the series of events indicate that we are proceeding toward far more serious dangers. Syria exploited the Lebanese card and semi- partitioning has resulted because Israel will remain in the south while Syria will remain in the north and some statelets will be established between the north and the south. The dimensions of this will be the contents of the plan which seeks to partition the Arab world. Syria, itself, may not escape from such a partitioning. The same situation which exists in Lebanon nearly exists in Syria. The same circumstances are there. As Lebanon has been partitioned, Syria will be partitioned one of these days. The situation is very grave and we have always warned against it.

On the issue of the Iraqi-Iranian war, there is a violation of the structure of Arab cooperation. Where is the Collective Arab Defense Pact? If there had been an Arab consensus, this war would not have lasted. There are, however, some Arab parties which have deviated from this context of the collective Arab Defense Pact and even from the contents of the structure of Arab cooperation. No one is moving now. Some say that Syria is playing with the Palestinian card. This violates the Rabat agreement which decided that the PLO is the one which is legitimately responsible for the Palestinian cause. This does not please us.

Question: Your Majesty, if this does not please you, would it prompt you to absolve yourself of the Rabat summit agreement?

Answer: We do not know when the Arab summit will meet. I personally do not think that it will meet on time, because certain quarters are delaying it. According to our information, Syria wants to come to the conference with a pro-Syrian Palestinian leadership. This will be a deviation from the Rabat summit agreement. In Rabat, it was we who demanded that the Palestinian handle their own affairs even before anyone had asked us. This was due to several considerations, but the important one was that we wanted to prepare the international circumstances for some action. Even constitutionally, we stopped parliamentary life here. Jordan, up to now, is still functioning through the Consultative Council system. We were also the ones who projected the Palestinian identity as an identity with an independent decision-making. Therefore, we will not allow Palestinian affairs to be run by non-Palestinians.

Question: Your Majesty said that the Arab action structure has been violated. How can we stop this violation?

Answer: Arab decisions are passed unanimously. This is wrong. The opinion of the majority must prevail. The majority must stop this defect. Some Arab states have, wittingly or unwittingly and with their wish or against their wish, found their policy in line with Zionist objectives. Is it not the objective of Zionism to partition Lebanon and occupy its south? Is this not what is taking place now?

Question: Your Majesty, you are talking about the partition of Lebanon as through it has already occurred.

Answer: I am not optimistic. The partition exists now. I cannot but hope that the Geneva conference will succeed. Because if the dialogue among the Lebanese fails, a catastrophe will occur. Such a catastrophe would not stop at the Lebanese borders, but would equally hit other states. They would then discover that we were right just as our previous warnings were right.

Question: Your Majesty, I would like a confirmation of this point; if the Lebanese dialogue in Geneva fails, then Lebanon would face a catastrophe.

Answer: It would certainly face a castrophe. I pray that they will succeed, but I am not optimistic. Our opinion on Lebanon was that all the foreign forces should withdraw. We supported the entry of the Syrian forces earlier due to the requirements of the circumstances that existed then, but not to the point of partitioning Lebanon, allowing Israel to impose an unequal agreement on it, and splitting Palestinian action.

Question: Your Majesty, let me ask you about your relations with Syria; are they cool?

Answer: They are very normal, but I cannot say that they are good.

Qeustion: Your Majesty, I see that you do not like to expand on the subject of your relations with Syria, but let me tell you that some people think that the attempt on two of your ambassadors has certain dimensions; one of them is Jordanian security. Can you confirm to me anything in this respect?

Answer: Regarding the attempt on our two ambassadors, we have irrefutable evidence that the Abu Nidal organization, which is very active in Syria, is behind these attempts, and we also have information that Syria is seeking to disrupt security inside Jordan by enlisting some elements to create disturbances and carry out terrorism. Yes, they seek to disrupt us and we have plans to confront these schemes.

Question: Your Majesty, why is this happening?

Answer: Had there been Arab action depending on the decision of the majority, we would have been able to solve many of our problems. Now, one or two states can disrupt any summit conference or meeting. Furthermore, the requirement of Arab unanimity on all decisions has enabled any one or two states to disrupt any Arab decision. This, very unfortunately, is the situation now in the Arab homeland.

Question: Your Majesty, who do you believe is responsible for what is happening?

Answer: Silence is responsible. Errors are committed and there is no unanimous blame. Silence is responsible.

Question: Your Majesty, the Jordanian citizen, and the Arab citizen for that matter, fears the talk regarding the substitute homeland. Does such talk scare you?

Answer: Jordan is the homeland of the Jordanians. The Jordanians are proud of their Jordanian identity, just as the Palestinians are proud of theirs. Indeed, they are our brothers. Jordan will never be a replaement for the Palestinian homeland and such talk does not scare me.

Question: Your Majesty, are you afraid of the so-called Greater Israel which wants to expand to the oil sources?

Answer: Israel wants that — hence the importance of Jordan. You see, Jordan is not just an Arab country; it is also a buffer zone between the Arab oil region and Israeli ambitions. The Arab homeland occupies an important strategic position. What remains is for its people to realize its significance. Unfortunately, our divisions have made us a target of many outside ambitions. These outsiders may yet acheive their objectives if we are not careful and alert.

Question: Excuse me Your Majesty, I would like to shed more light on your pains in spite of your reluctance to do so. A few moments ago, you said that you had suspended parliamentary life awaiting what would happen on the Palestinian level. Do you not believe that this constitutes a constitutional imbalance in your country?

Answer: Yes, this constitutes a constitutional imbalance, but the elected parliament will return. The burdens on us and on the government have become too heavy and an elected parliament must be established. The National Consultative Council is currently assuming a very good role, but the return to the participation in government to which the Jordanians have become accustomed is inevitable. This has become a necessity.

Question: This is a Jordanian concern, but let me ask: When will this take place?

Answer: An elected parliament will return and I tell you that it will not be far away. Inevitably, it will return and probably very soon.

Question: A few moments ago, we talked about the cards with which Syria is playing; what we call the growing Syrian role. What is the secret of this force. Is it inherent to Syria, or from where does it come?

Answer: There are some who adopt negative stands on Arab unanimity. These stands are being exploited to the extent of becoming a threat to other Arab parties. From this premise, roles grow at the expense of the stands of the other countries which are rational in their behavior. That is why we have always said that there is a need for an Arab stand that will adopt the opinion of the majority and that will put an end to the negative stands whose harm does not only affect that country's domestic affairs but also all the Arabs.

Question: Your Majesty, I have taken your time but I am concerned about the worries of those who will read this interview. So I hope you will give me enough time. Your Majesty, as I have learned, Israel is massing its troops opposite the Syrian positions in Lebanon, and the United States says that it will avenge the incident involving its soldiers. Is the United States preparing for any action and will it interfere?

Answer: I have no knowledge of the type of revenge and I do not know if the United States will interfere. It interfered in Grenada because this is within the red line of its interests. Is what is taking place in Lebanon also within the red line? I do not know.

Question: Your Majesty, one notices that the Soviets act more swiftly when their interests are concerned. Do you believe that the United States will really interfere if something takes place to threaten its interests in the Arab Gulf?

Answer: In deciding on matters related to their interests, the friends in the USSR do not have to pass through the channels which the United States must pass to decide on their interests, particularly if the issue is one of military intervention. The current U.S. Presidency, however, is as courageous as the one which existed under the late President Eisenhower. At that time, world Zionistm realized the importance of the U.S. role and gave up the European role in 1956. It moved to the United States and formed its pressure groups which it manipulates to achieve its own interests. The current Presidency is to some extent a courageous one. We were eager to benefit from its presence before it became preoccupied with the commitments to the new presidential elections.

Question: Your Majesty, let us go back to Palestinian affairs. Some have said that Jordan established installations to absorb the Palestinians who are residing in Lebanon. Is this true?

Answer: Installations for this purpose were not set up. But during the dialogue with Yasir 'Arafat, there was talk about absorbing some Palestinians in Jordan. On our part, we did not oppose the return of the Jordanians. We also welcomed the Palestinians who wanted to come to Jordan but in accordance with several security conditions. The purpose of these security conditions is to make sure of the identity of those who arrive to prevent any security complications. Dialogue with 'Arafat was held on this basis but no special installations had been set up for this purpose.

Question: Your Majesty, I want to know everything, particularly since I am talking to someone who is well-versed in Arab politics and because Jordan is an important country. Therefore, I hope you will forgive me if I seek to know everything. Your Majesty, a short time ago, some incidents took place in Jordan that were interpreted by the government as being in violation of the law on state lands. Others interpreted these acts as a tribal movement manipulated by another country to undermine Jordan's security. Did these acts have such a dimension?

Answer: This has been exaggerated and there is no truth in it. What took place had been merely a violation of a law. That is why justice took its course. This incident in particular cannot be interpreted as an attempt to disrupt security. This is not true.

Question: Your Majesty, how are your relations with the United States. Is there any coolness, or are they the same?

Answer: The relationship with the United States is not cool. It is as it is. I am frank in my meetings with them. The present U.S. Leadership is a courageous leadership. We submit our causes to them with frankness. Our relations with the United States are not cool and we are againsnt the logic of internationalization in our cooperation with the big countries. We seek the friendship of everyone.

Question: Your Majesty, have your considered an alliance with the United States on the pattern of the existing alliances with the USSR?

Answer: I am against the logic of internationalizaiion. We have an issue with the United States; it is the Palestine question. As I said, we want everyone's friendship, so why should we go for alliances? Or, why should we align when we can stay away from the atmosphere of alignment?

Question: your Majesty, let me ask you about the Iraq war. How do you see its end?

Answer: Had the Arab political atmosphere enjoyed the minimum level of solidarity, the Iraq war would have ended. There are some parties which want the continuation of this war in order to weaken both sides. Otherwise, why is it still going on? It is exhausting the financial and manpower resources of both sides. The losses are enormous on both sides.

Question: Your Majesty, how can this war be stopped?

Answer: It can be stopped if there is a unified Arab stand so that the Arab roles would not just be to mediate, but also to announce the end of the war through a unanimous decision. This is the secret of the sorrow you were asking about. Yes, I tell you that we are distressed, and the cause of this distress is the absence of Arab coordination and unified Arab stand. The Iraqi position is unquestionable. Iraq has provided all the opportunities for peace and responded to all world appeals to end the war. On the other hand, the Iranian side is rejecting. Had there been that unified stand, whether Arab or Islamic, a stand represented by a decision committing both sides to end the war, the situation would have been much better than it is now. But the Arab atmosphere is as you see it now. As I said before, someone has violated the Arab cooperation structure.

Question: You are conversant with the Iraqi position, do you think that Iraq will stand firm and that its defenses are strong?

Answer: Certainly, Iraq is now in a strong defenisve position. More than that, it has a solid domestic front. Its military defenses are strong and it will continue to be able to defend its borders.

Question: Your Majesty, let me be more frank. Some people believe that the Iraq war will only end with the disappearance of one of the leaders. Do you believe that if President Saddam Husayn disappears from power, the Iraq war would end?

Answer: This is a mere delusion. The war will not end with the disappearance of President Saddam Husayn. Moreover, who would allow the disappearance of a head of state? The war will continue as long as there are international parties which seek its continuation to weaken the two combatting parties by exhausting their resources as is happening now.

Question: Your Majesty, some people believe that Iraq's acquisition of the French Super-Etendard planes might change the military balance in its favor.

Answer: This aircraft deal has been over-publicized. These planes will not change the military balance. Iraq's military position is good, and I feel reassured about it. Iraq can continue to defend its borders.

Question: Your Majesty, let us for the sake of argument assume that Iraq had been defeated. What effect would that have on the Gulf situation?

Answer: If Iraq were defeated, the situation in the Gulf area and the Arabian Peninsula would be serious. But this will not happen.

Question: Your Majesty, let us just assume that Iraq had been defeated — I am expressing fears, mere fears, Your Majesty would the big powers intervene to do something?

Answer: We emphasize that there should be Arab coordination. Had the Arabs had better solidarity, the picture would have been entirely different. As to whether the big countries would intervene in the conflict, this is something I cannot determine. Many people would be frustrated if matters were to continue in this way without an attempt being made to stop the dangers.

Question: Your Majesty, is there any coolness in your relations with Iraq? Some people are whispering that you relations are different from what they were 3 months ago.

Answer: Our relations with Baghdad are as they were. In fact, I am about to visit Iraq. Our relationship is not cool.

Question: Your Majesty, what is the truth about the Rapid Deployment Force Jordan is said to have been entrusted to form?

Answer: Let us search together for this force if it exists. However, the Jordanian Army is an Arab army. It has played its role in several Arab positions when this was requested. When we are asked to stand on the side of any Arab side, we will do so. And, when it is necessary for the Jordanian Army to be in the Gulf, it will be there. As to the talk that we are setting up a Rapid Deployment Force to act on behalf of a major power, this is something I know nothing about.

Question: Sir, do you believe that the Arab Gulf, I mean the Arab Gulf states, are facing dangers?

Answer: We may not be able to determine the dimensions of such dangers, but it is necessary in such a situation to take precautions. This is why we have been calling on our Arab brothers to be cautious and to create an atmosphere of Arab solidarity so that these dangers will not surprise the Arabs while they are divided. I say that precaution is necessary, but God willing these fears will not materialize.

Question: Your Majesty, in view of the economic recession experienced by Jordan, what is the status of Arab aid?

Answer: Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are fulfilling their obligations to us. Libya has not honored its obligation from the beginning. Algeria has graciously paid for the first year after the Baghdad conference. Some of the other states have not paid anything. One state has not paid the last installment for last year, and has not paid anything this year. The failure to pay this aid has caused us economic confusion. We have concluded contracts to purchase arms, and the result was that we were compelled to rearrange the payment through loans, some of which require payment of interests on a normal commercial basis. Indeed, this matter has caused us economic confusion.

Question: Your Majesty, will this confusion last long; and what would be the effect on the Jordanian economy if all this aid stopped?

Answer: If we manage through the rest of this year and next year, Jordan would be able to depend on itself from then on. The important thing is to manage through this period. The funds that caused the confusion were allocated for arms, and their purpose is to increase the efficacy of the Jordanian military position to protect our country from dangers that also threaten other important Arab states. As I said, Israel wants to overlook the oil region, and this could be one of its plans.

Question: Your Majesty, let us now consider an important issue; namely, Egypt's return to the Arab fold.

Answer: Egypt must return. Egypt has regained Sinai and many circumstances have changed. Egypt's existence outside the Arab fold is incorrect. We have not severed our relations with Egypt, and I stressed this point at the Fes conference. We have to find a solution to the subject of diplomatic relations, because I would find it rather embarrassing if we are compelled to determine our attitude toward say, Spain if it estabished diplomatic relations with Israel. Yet Spain is not an Arab state. This is the embarrassing point to me. But we will find a way out. Egypt must return, and we have not severed diplomatic relations with it. I am in constant touch with President Husni Mubarak. Many circumstances have changed, and the Camp David accords have resulted in the return of Sinai.

[Jarallah] The talk with the astute Arab politician, His Majesty King Husayn ended here, yet I feel that it has not quite ended. I believe that there are bitter feelings and other secrets that he has not divulged and that may have to wait for the appropriate time.

NCC Praises King Husayn's Stand on PLO

JN071257 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Amman — The National Consultative Council [NCC] has praised His Majesty King Husayn's stand on the PLO, its unity, and the independence of Palestinian decisionmaking. This came during the session the NCC held today under Speaker Sulayman 'Arar. Prime Minister Mudar Badran and the ministers attended this session. The NCC denounced the stands of the Syrian and Libyan regimes and their attempts to liquidate the PLO and change its legitimate leadership. The NCC also denounced the massacre both regimes concocted against the Palestinian people in Nahr al-Barid and Al-Baddawi Refugee Camps. In speeches delivered during the session, a number of NCC members said that the destruction and fragmentation of the PLO is one of the major elements in the criminal strategy Zionism and imperialism have formulated since the appearance of the Palestine cause. They added that the role of the Syrian regime, which has provided the dissidents with all the elements of military force as well as the slogans justifying their dissidence, cannot be separated from the major scheme that has contained the events of the last 8 years.

Palestinians Denounce Syrian, Libyan Massacre

JN071441 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Amman — The Palestinian refugee camps and groups in Jordan have appealed to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to stop the joint Syrian-Libyan assault against Palestinian revolution forces and the massacres perpetrated by these forces in north Lebanon. This came in a memorandum addressed to the Syrian ambassador in Amman by a delegation of the representatives and chairmen of Paelstinian groups in Jordan. Following is the text of the memorandum:

The popular sectors in the Palestinian refugee camps and groups in Jordan strongly condemn and denounce the massacres perpetrated by both the Syrian and Libyan regimes against our people in northern lebanon. We appeal to you in the name of the principles that you champion to stop the Syrian-Libyan assaults against the Palestinian revolution forces. We hold you responsible for killing the hope of our people and for destroying the PLO by completing what Zionism failed to achieve. By such a deed, you serve the Israeli enemy — wittingly or unwittingly. The Syrian assault is historic treason against the Arab nation and our Palestinian people. Future generations of the Arab nation will never forgive you for this treason. We declare that we wash our hands of Jibril's group [PFLP-GC], the dissidents, your followers, the agents of Syrian intelligence — As-Sa'iqah. Our people will never forgive you for your massacres, which are unmatched by the Zionist enemy's massacres against our people. The Zionist enemy was ashamed of its massacres, and demonstrations were staged in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv condemning these massacres. Are not those who claim Arabism and nationalism ashamed of killing the children of Tripoli, Al-Baddawi, and Al-Barid with their own hands? Where were your guns in the battles of dignity and steadfastness in Beirut, and when the Golan was occupied? Your deed is an historic treason for which future generations of Arabs will take you to task sooner or later. The souls of our martyrs in Tal az-Za'tar, Al-Baddawi, and Al-Barid will haunt you day and night. You will not escape the rage of the Syrian masses, and the Arab nation's sons will never forgive you for this criminal act.

Stop the assault of your regime, the Libyan regime, and your agents against the Palestinian revolution forces. He who warns is excused. You will not be far away from the blows of our people.

Organizations Issue Statement on Tripoli clashes

JN070918 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 nov 83 pp 1, 23

[Text] Amman — *AD-DUSTUR* — Jordanian organizations, professional unions, societies, and personages have issued a statement on the aggression against Tripoli, the Palestinian camps, and the Lebanese villages. The following came in the statement:

Tripoli, the Palestinian camps, and the Lebanese villages have been subjected to barbaric shelling for several days in an attempt by some Palestinian parties to settle secondary internal differences at a time when imperialist-Zionist conspiracies are increasing in the region along with the daily threats in order to place our region under the U.S.-Zionist hegemony, and at a time when the U.S.-Zionist political and direct military intervention in the region is taking numerous forms. This situation requires mobilizing, not destroying or scattering, all national Arab and Palestinian potentials. All Jordan's popular forces, unions, and personages greatly denounce this offensive on the Palestinian camps, Tripoli, and Lebanese villages, and they define their stand in the following main points:

1. They request an immediate halt to the fighting and the attack against Tripoli, the Palestinian camps, and the Lebanese villages. They stress the need to solve all differences through democratic dialogue and to avoid and condemn the use of arms. They appeal to everyone to preserve the pure blood in order to face the main enemy for the sake of liberating Palestine.

2. They call for actual and full commitment to the legitimate Palestinian institutions and all their decisions. All factions must consult these institutions in order to solve any internal discord. They stress the need to preserve the independence of the Palestinian decisionmaking adopted by the PLO institutions.

3. They affirm that democratic dialogue is the only legitimate method to solve differences inside Fatah or the PLO and that the current fighting and the attack against the Palestinian camps, Tripoli, and the Lebanese villages will only serve the enemies of the Arab nation and their suspect designs.

We are following the regrettable incidents in north Lebanon with great anger and we warn against the dangerous consequences of this attack. We hold those parties who are waging the attack fully responsible for all the consequences, and we demand an immediate halt to the fighting and a return to the legitimate PLO institutions. We appeal to all popular forces to raise their voices loudly against the current massacre in order to support the PLO in its just struggle to return to the homeland, determine the future, and establish an independent and national Palestinian state. We also appeal to them to exert all efforts to stop the fighting and to prevent the destruction of Tripoli and the surrounding Palestinian camps and Lebanese villages.

Athens Embassy Employee Dies of Gunshot Wounds

NC071956 Athens Domestic Service in Greek 1925 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Excerpts] An employee of the Jordanian Embassy in Athens, Muhammad Rashid, was killed this afternoon by an unknown person who shot at him in Ifestos Street in Monastiraki [central Athens area]. The same man very seriously wounded another employee of the Jordanian Embassy, Ahmad 'Uqlah. According to eyewitnesses' descriptions, the perpetrator, who escaped after his deed, is between 25 and 30 years old, probably of Arab origin, thin, with curly hair and a moustache, and about 170-175 cm tall. He was wearing a beige windbreaker with dark trousers. About 15 police patrol cars were immediately set in motion. The latest reports given to us by our police editor Panos Sombolos a short while ago mention that the condition of the wounded Jordanian is considered critical. Ahmad 'Uqlah had arrived in Greece on 3 April while Rashid had come on 19 September. Both were working as police guards at the Jordanian Embassy. More than 10 Arabs have been detained so far and interrogated but no positive clue has emerged.

Cabinet Discusses Geneva With Al-Jumayyil 7 Nov

NC071305 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil, who this morning returned from Paris, held a meeting with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-As'ad on the results of the Geneva conference and the serious situation in the south.

At 1200 today, the president held a similar meeting with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan. They were joined at 1300 by Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim.

The meeting ended a short while ago. Prime Minister al-Wazzan made the following statement:

[Begin recording] After his return from the historic meeting in Geneva, it was necessary first to welcome the president and then to thank him for the efforts he exerted with the conferees whom we also thank for the results achieved. Naturally, we dealt in detail with the discussions held at the conference concerning important subjects. We also reviewed the current situation in the country and although the president had followed up the developments while in Geneva we directly briefed him on some details and measures. We also agreed that I should go ahead with my proposal convening a Cabinet meeting this afternoon to discuss the new developments in Lebanon and those related to international affairs, particularly the events in the south and in the north. Further details will be available after the Cabinet meeting. [end recording]

Speaker al-As'ad left the Presidential Palace without making any statement. He went to Mansur Palace where he chaired a parliamentary meeting attended by 36 deputies to appraise the current contacts to find an outlet to the 17 May accord in light of the authority given to the president by the Geneva conference. It is known that 30 deputies are abroad and were unable to attend the meeting.

Further on Cabinet Discussion

NC071926 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] The Cabinet meeting held this evening in the Government Palace under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan ended a short while ago. The Cabinet acting secretary general, Shafiq Munaynah, read the following official statement:

At 1700 today, and at the invitation of the prime minister, the Cabinet held a meeting attended by the ministers and chaired by the prime minister to discuss the developments on the Lebanese arena, particularly the situation in the south, the north, and Beirut's southern suburbs. The prime minister briefed the ministers on some aspects of the meeting held before noon today with his excellency the president to assess the Geneva conference discussions. All the details will be given when his excellency the president attends the next Cabinet meeting.

The discussion then dealt with the developments in the various parts of the country. The prime minister said: At a time when the Lebanese official and popular efforts have focused on ensuring that the national dialogue is the way to the homeland's salvation — giving renewed hope to the patient Lebanese for an end to their tragedy — at this particular time the situation erupted in the south, in the north, and in other areas as if they were meant to frustrate these hopes and to spread this tragedy to every area, quarter, house, and family. The tormented and grieved south embodies in its steadfastness the will of the Lebanese, and it is revolting against the arbitrary Israeli measures, both those pertaining to the closure of the crossing points on the Al-Awwali River and to the forceful evacuation of the government offices in the Sidon government building. The uprising of the people of the south popularly consecrates the official protests of the Lebanese Government against these arbitrary measures and confirms the demands addressed to the occupation authorities to rescind these measures, stressing that the Israeli withdrawal and the restoration of full Lebanese sovereignty will ensure security and stability.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan added: While the government is aware of the patriotic meaning of the strike called by the leaders in the south and hails it, it hopes that this will be the message of a steadfast people and a message to the brothers and to the whole world to realize what is happening and to help restore right.

As for the north and the moral and material damage the inter-Palestinian clashes have caused so far, and the increasing dangers to the dear city of Tripoli, Prime Minister al-Wazzan reiterated his appeal to the combatants to stop the fratricide among people with the same cause. He added: Lebanon, which has over the years offered the dearest sacrifices for the Palestinian cause, is pained more than others to see that these sacrifices are going to waste and have led to such fighting at a time when the south is languishing under the yoke of the Israeli occupation and is suffering at this particular time from isolation, siege, and displacement. It also pains Lebanon to see tragedies increasing as a result of the war taking place in the north, which is affecting the innocent people, residential areas, and everything else, and is causing a new wave of emigration, with all the woes involved.

After it discussed the security situation in the various areas and in the capital, the Cabinet approved some measures. These include:

1. To affirm the need to continue all contacts and measures to ensure an end to the isolation and the lifting of the siege on the south, so as to restore its link with the homeland without any obstacle; and to address greetings to the people of the south, who are steadfastly standing in the face of the arbitrary Israeli measures against the state institutions and the attempts to isolate them from the homeland.

2. To entrust the foreign and expatriates minister with holding contacts with the Arab and international quarters to assist in ending all arbitrary measures and to speed up the termination of the occupation.

3. To renew the call on the PLO to stop the rifts among the warring elements in order to aid their cause and prevent the continuation of great damage that increases the tragedies of the Lebanese people, who have continously supported the Palestinian

issue as an issue of right and justice; and to appeal to the Arab kings and presidents to prevent the continuation of this fighting and the resultant dangers and serious repercussions.

The meeting was adjourned after the Cabinet took note of what the various departments are doing on the supply, social, and health levels to help the citizens in the various parts of the country ease their increasing hardships — something that calls for a national program in which all the official and popular sectors should participate.

Syria Reportedly Welcomes Al-Jumayyil Visit

NC080632 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 8 Nov 83

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned that during contacts following the Geneva conference, Syria has advised that the Syrian Government welcomes President al-Jumayyil's visit any time he wishes.

Foreign Minister Meets Saudi, Soviet Envoys

NC071042 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Today Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim received Saudi Charge d'Affaires Abu Bakr Rafi' at the Foreign Ministry. He also received for the second time in 24 hours Soviet Charge d'Affaires Yuriy Suslikov who later told journalists: At today's meeting, we continued discussions on some of the matters that were discussed yesterday and which concern the Soviet Union and Lebanon, including security affairs. Asked if he meant the security of the [Soviet] Embassy, he replied: Naturally. The Soviet diplomat declined to reply to a question about his country's stand on what is taking place in southern and northern Lebanon.

Delegates Comment on Geneva Conference Results

Amal Movement's Nabih Birri

JN042102 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1806 GMT 4 Nov 83

[Interview with Nabih Birri, leader of Amal Movement, in Geneva to Radio Monte Carlo news director Antoine Nawfal within the weekly "It Happened Tomorrow" program; date not specified — recorded]

[Text] [Antoine Nawfal] Are you pleased with the results of the conference in general, and with the decision regarding the 17 May agreement in particular?

[Nabih Birri] In fact, I cannot speak about the results of the National Dialogue Conference. All I can speak about are the results of the start of the national dialogue. This start is good. It is enough to point out in this regard that the psychological barrier that existed between the Lebanese leaders, and subsequently between the Lebanese, has largely been removed. This makes us optimistic about the future, because a start has been made. However, this does not deal with tomorrow's Lebanon, which we all want and seek. The decision that was adopted on Lebanon's Arab identity may be the only achievement in this start.

However, regarding what you termed the decision on the 17 May agreement, it is actually not a decision but a means. The conference asked the Lebanese president to make immediate Arab and international moves and to come back to this conference on 14 November in order to discuss the issue of southern Lebanon, which is the gateway to accord and the basis of real accord. We will discuss it in light of the latest contacts, and then a decision will be adopted on the 17 May agreement and the issue of the South. After that, we will discuss the withdrawal of the friendly and fraternal forces that are stationed in Lebanon, as well as the political reforms and organizational changes that must take place in Lebanon in order to achieve justice, efficiency, and equality among the Lebanese.

[Nawfal] Therefore, what you have achieved is not freezing, canceling, or reconsidering, but a means of studying it again.

[Birri] It is merely a means for achieving a decision that would be adopted in the near future.

[Nawfal] In your opinion, does this decision include a call for the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon?

[Birri] Not at all. It has no relation or stand, except that we specified in it the means of ending Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and subsequently restoring Lebanese sovereignty over all Lebanese territroy. This is only aimed at making moves, and not adopting a decision on a certain stand.

[Nawfal] On the practical level, what happens after this agreement?

[Birri] On the practical level, it must be noted that the [word indistinct] are harmed by this Lebanese dialogue. Many of them actually want to hamper or even to end this dialogue. I have noticed what happened in Tyre today. Israel will use that as an excuse for sowing sedition once again, by bombing and terrorism in Lebanese airspace in order to achieve its principal aim of preventing the sides from returning to dialogue. I hope that in the future, despite all obstacles, the conferees will return to dialogue on 14 November with the same good will that they acquired during the past 3 days.

[Nawfal] Did you agree to meet on 14 November?

[Birri] Yes, it was agreed on. An official statement will be issued on this conference this afternoon. Therefore, what I hope will happen — and I believe will happen, God willing — is that the sides will return to the dialogue with the same truthful intention and determination we achieved during the few days that followed the start of the dialogue. Thus, from the premise of this truthful intention, we can actually achieve a comprehensive national accord that will end this long, dark night in which Lebanon lived and is still living.

[Nawfal] Will the dialogue be resumed abroad or in Lebanon?

[Birri] It will take place here in Geneva.

[Nawfal] Are there special reasons for that?

[Birri] No. This is what the sides agreed on. This is because future sessions will be a continuation of and complementary to previous sessions. The conference is not over yet. The conference has been suspended until the president concludes his contacts and returns to us with the results.

[Nawfal] Will the conference be suspended this evening?

[Birri] The conference will be suspended this evening, in principle.

[Nawfal] Thank you, Nabih Birri.

Birri ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Interview

PM070917 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Nov 83 p 1

[*ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* correspondent report: "Birri: We Have Achieved Significant Progress but Lebanese-Israeli Agreement Is Difficult Stumbling Block"]

[Text] Geneva — Nabih Birri, leader of the Lebanese Amal Movement now participating in the National Dialogue Conference in Geneva, said that the conferees have achieved significant progress regarding the question of Lebanon's Arab identity.

But, he added in an exclusive statement to *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* yesterday, there is an important point which is still being discussed, namely the Lebanese-Israeli agreement.

Birri said that defining Lebanon's identity is a matter of extreme importance "not because this identity did not exist before but in order to confirm it on the one hand and to take measures in the various internal fields to perpetuate it on the other."

He pointed out that this will affect various fields, including the educational field "in which there was not a unified attitude toward the crusaders wars, for example, or toward Salah ad-Din and other historical events."

He expressed the belief that applying this definition in the defense, political, cultural, and social fields will be undertaken by a national unity government that could emerge from the National Dialogue Conference if agreement is reached on other topics on the agenda.

Birri confirmed that the conferees have also discussed the question of southern Lebanon which is under Zionist occupation, saying that "the spark of war was ignited in the south and should be put out in the south as well."

He said that the conferees are now facing the stumbling block of the 17 May agreement and that dialogue is now centering on this point, "which will be very difficult and extremely complicated."

He described the debate yesterday evening concerning the agreement as very objective and the atmosphere as positive, but denied a specific formula has been reached.

He added that a number of various proposals were submitted which will be discussed in coming meetings in order to come out with a specific formula. He said that Amal's attitude is not only against the agreement with Israel but also basically against the principle of negotiating with Israel.

Birri said the agreement was stillborn and cannot be implemented; it legitimizes Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon and for this reason the Amal Movement has rejected it.

Birri described his meeting with U.S. envoy Fairbanks as a failure because the United States is the sponsor of the agreement; it wants the Dialogue Committee to sidestep the agreement and leave it to the future national unity agreement, something that the Amal Movement does not agree with.

He expressed the hope that "a consensus will be reached on a unified result that will bring salvation to southern Lebanon and will be in harmony with Lebanon's identity which was defined at the earlier meeting."

He also expressed the fear that "the conference will collapse as a result of a party adopting an intransigent stand and trying to impose its views on the others." He added: " Some of the constitutional provisions that are supposed to be amended and the 17 May agreement could seriously threaten the conference."

He said that the desired reforms in the Lebanese regime should provide that "every Lebanese be a citizen of Lebanon and every citizen enjoy equal rights without discrimination."

Birri rejected the comparison between Syria's legitimate presence in Lebanon and Israel's occupation presence, saying that "Syria is present in Lebanon at the Lebanese Government's request, and when the Israelis pull out completely then there will be no need for any sisterly or foreign forces remaining in Lebanon."

He called for Lebanon's problem to be separated from the Middle East crisis "in the interest of the Lebanese cause and the Palestinian cause." He called upon the Arabs to begin by solving Lebanon's problem first.

He stressed the need for the settlement to cover all matters and said that "we should not leave any loopholes, for matters are interlinked and intertwined."

Lebanese Front's Camille Sham'un

JN042127 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1812 GMT 4 Nov 83

[Interview with Camille Sham'un, former Lebanese president and leader of the Lebanese Front, to Radio Monte Carlo news director Antoine Nawfal in Geneva, carried within the weekly "It Happened Tomorrow" program; date not specified — recorded]

[Text] [Nawfal] Are you statisfied with the results of the conference in general, and with the decision regarding the 17 May agreement in particular?

[Sham'un] Of course, because this decision was a result of the proposal I made and on which the conference has agreed.

[Nawfal] What does the decision mean? Does it mean a temporary freezing of the agreement? Is it a step toward cancellation, or is it a step toward an amendment?

[Sham'un] First, the agreement is frozen. It will remain that way until the talks and negotiations begin with both sides, particularly the U.S. side. I beleive that it is more correct to move toward an amendment so that all points that are considered to be impinging on Lebanon's full sovereignty will be removed. This is my opinion. If the agreement deletes these points, I believe it will be accepted. It will then be possible to benefit from this agreement by asking the Israelis to withdraw from the Lebanese territory.

[Nawfal] In your opinion, Does the decision contain a call for the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon?

[Sham'un] The withdrwawal in inherent in the decision. However, the discussion was confined to the 17 May agreement. I cannot say that it clearly included the withdrawal of all foreign forces. However, because we say that the president is expected to seek a guarantee for full Lebanese independence and sovereignty in all fields during his tour of the Arab states and the United States, then this implies that no alien force should remain in Lebanon except the legitimate Lebanese forces or the forces accepted by Lebanon, such as the UN forces that are present in Lebanon.

[Nawfal] Do you believe that the conference's proceedings, which will be resumed later, and today's work will be affected by the Tyre explosion today and by the current events in Ash-Shuf and 'Alayh?

[Sham'un] I do not think that the dialogue will be affected. On the contrary, because we have reached an agreement we can ask for a cease-fire in Ash-Shuf, 'Alayh, and the mountain, and in all of the Lebanese areas. This is what we proposed today in the meeting. We demanded that the legitimate forces should control these areas.

[Nawfal] Last question. Are you staying on in Geneva or returning to Lebanon?

[Sham'un] No, I will not stay on. I will wait in Lebanon until the second session of the conference, which is supposed to be held on 14 November [words indistinct].

National Salvation Front's Karami

NC070859 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA) — Former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami has affirmed that the resolutions of the Lebanese reconciliation conference confirm the Lebanese agreement and solidarity to save their country. In an interview with Cairo's *AL-AHRAM* today, Karami, who is considered one of the leaders of the National Salvation Front, says: It is beyond any doubt that all Lebanese reject the Israeli occupation of any part of their territory, particularly in the south. This means the rejection of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement because its provisions detract from the Lebanese sovereignty and undermine the Lebanese freedom.

Karami says: The agreement of the participants in the conference, which is clear from the declaration they issued, truly expresses Lebanese agreement and their solidarity to save their country by charging President Al-Jumayyil to carry out the necessary international contacts to secure complete Israeli withdrawal and safeguard Lebanon's absolute sovereignty.

Asked if the intention is to cancel the Lebanese-Israeli agreement or amend it, Karami says: When you go back to the statement issued by the conference, you will find that it fully explains what is intended.

Karami adds: The expression "the evacuation of the Israeli enemy from Lebanon and action to safeguard and preserve our full sovereignty" actually gives the true dimension to the task assigned to the president of the republic.

On the situation which will arise if the desired results of this mission are not achieved, the former Lebanese prime minister says that he cannot anticipate matters because the conference will convene again to study the result of the efforts and contacts in order that we may decide on the plan dictated by our national duty to achieve our aim.

In his interview, Karami explains that the mere convocation of the reconciliation conference is evidence of the intentions to eliminate the division and end the fighting in order to unite the ranks and crystallize national unity.

Answering a question on whether an agreement has been reached to form a national unity government in Lebanon, Karami says: This will depend on the discussions of the National Dialogue Conference in the coming stage. It will actually be discussed because it is an executive measure of the principles to emerge from the conference.

Karami emphasizes that the reconciliation conference agreed to consolidate the cease-fire by strengthening the task of the security committee which will make all the arrangements and adopt all measure leading to the spread of security and emphasizing the safeguarding of Lebanon's stability.

It is worth mentioning that the Lebanese reconciliation conference ended its first stage in Geneva last Friday after 4 days of discussions and consultations among all the Lebanese parties.

The conference will reconvene after the Lebanese president completes his contacts and consultations in Washington and some Arab and European capitals on ways of ending the Israeli occupation of Lebanon.

Former Minister Sa'ib Salam

JN041937 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1758 GMT 4 Nov 83

[Interview with former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam in Geneva by Monte Carlo news director Antoine Nawfal, carried within the weekly "It Happened Tomorrow" program; date not specified — recorded]

[Text] [Antoine Nawfal] Are you pleased with the results of the conference in general, and with the decision regarding the 17 May agreement in particular?

[Sa'ib Salam] Regarding the conference in general, I undoubtedly feel satisfied. This is because the mere meeting, considering such differences and entrenched embitterment, was an opportunity to begin the dialogue and to have frank discussions. In my opinion, this was very important. Regarding the agreement, in my opinion what was announced yesterday was a positive move.

[Nawfal] Do you have other reasons for being satisfied, and how do you explain the decision on the 17 May agreement?

[Salam] I reiterate that satisfaction in itself is the key toward solving the problem. This stems from the enlightenment and the living conscience of all participants, because we have a heavy responsibility. Moreover, there is a great deal of pressure from unanimous Lebanese opinion, which demands that this conference and those participating in it achieve positive results.

[Nawfal] What is your explanation of the decision?

[Salam] The decision was adopted following lengthy consultations and discussions, because everyone now realizes that this decision has sufficient disadvantages that might eventually cause a great deal of harm. It is also linked to international commitments on which one cannot adopt separate stands. It is not in Lebanon's interest to expose its international relations to harm, according to this agreement. In my opinion, this agreement was violated when Israel withdrew through what it termed redeployment of its forces. This, in fact, was a partial withdrawal it wickedly planned in order to destabilize the region it vacated. It planned for this, and withdrew. Today, it is staying in southern Leabnon and implementing its colonialism of southern Lebanon. The agreement stipulates that Israel should withdraw in stages, at a specified time and place, until it completes its withdrawal. Thus, Israel violated the agreement and this is what the United States, which participated in the signing of the agreement and which is also responsible for it, should realize.

[Nawfal] In your opinion, does the decision the conference adopted yesterday contain a call for the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon?

[Salam] The call for the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces is always under discussion, and is not merely or solely included in the agreement. This is what the Lebanese must endeavor to achieve at every level. The agreement is linked only to Israel. Therefore, Lebanese endeavors were not initiated by the president of the republic or his government, but by Lebanese unanimity. Here, we pin great hopes on the help of our Arab brothers, the Syrians and Saudis, who expressed their complete willingness to support us in every field and at international levels. We all know the hopes we pin on the Saudi stand, particularly King Fahd's, and on the United States. We do not deny that there are Arab countries — such as Egypt and the Egyptian president — that are making moves without us asking them. However, we pin our greatest hopes on Saudi Arabia and its king.

[Nawfal] What happens after the agreement in Geneva?

[Salam] There are other issues, and I must admit some of them are very complicated and demand study and agreement. I also hope that we will succeed in untangling the atmosphere. I do not want to claim too much credit, but my contacts with everyone without exception [words indistinct] to bring the ideas together and strengthen relations.

[Nawfal] In fact, no one can deny that you palyed a distinguished role in this conference. My final question: Do you think that the work of the conference will be delayed by what happened in Tyre? What is your reaction to what happened in Tyre?

[Salam] What took place in Tyre was expected. Things happened before that, and this will continue as long as Israel continues to be determined to occupy the south. Israel must expect this and take it into consideration. I believe that the United States has a role in making Israel realize this. I do not encourage any violence whatsoever. However, there is an enemy that occupies the land and there are Lebanese heroes in the southern region who are carrying out these acts despite all barbaric Israeli measures.

[Nawfal] Are the events in the south, Tripoli, and Geneva all related?

[Salam] All issues are related, and all Lebanese events are related to what is taking place in Geneva. What is taking place in Lebanon today is painful and regrettable. There is continued fighting today, and there are forces that are still fighting. Regrettably, some of these are beyond the leaders' control. As we heard today, what is taking place in Tripoli among our Palestinian brothers is also harmful to Lebanon. This is because we as Arabs are all affected by the Palestinian issue. However, those who are fighting among themselves are harming their cause and Lebanon.

[Nawfal] Thank you.

Al-Murabitun Outlines Stances on Current Issues

NC080812 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 8 Nov 83

[Text] The higher Central Political Committee of the Independent Nasirite Movement-Al-Murabitun has held an extraordinary meeting and at its conclusion issued a statement on developments in the north, south, and in Beirut's southern suburbs. On developments in the north, the committee sees the events there as a tragedy hitting the Palestinian revolution and shocking all the Arab revolutionary forces which consider the Palestinian resistance to be their main vanguard. The committee reaffirms its stance and commitment to safeguarding the revolution's unity and to sparing all efforts and arms to fight the real enemy.

The committee greets the heroes who carried out the Tyre operation which it considers a fateful political decision in respect to following up the fight against the Zionist-U.S. enemy. The operation has shown the existence of a basic force which has its position and role in the field and which holds the initiative in war and peace. The committee expresses its support for the general strike against what is taking place in the south.

Regarding the Geneva conference, the committee declares that the conference did not result in tackling all aspects of the ordeal but was the convening of a mere meeting.

The committee notes the events in the southern suburb of Beirut and believes that any failure in dealing with the problem will not confine the consequences to the suburb or Beirut but will be more comprehensive and serious.

Lebanese Forces Criticize Geneva Results

NC080932 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 8 Nov 83

[Text] The Lebanese Forces Command Council, in a statement following a meeting yesterday, defined the Lebanese Forces' stand on current issues; particularly the fateful ones such as the Geneva conference and its resolutions, security issues, and the explosions. The statement emphasized the following:

1. Regarding the recommendations on which the conferees agreed in Geneva, such as emphasizing Lebanon's Arab identity and its representation through the establishments, and regarding the attempts to reconsider the 17 May agreement, the Lebanese Forces command statement says:

A. In view of all that has befallen Lebanon and its people for 9 years including the war, the destruction of establishments, the consolidation of the popular political infrastructure of the homeland by the "good" deeds of Arabism in Lebanon — such as those Arab deeds during the events of 1958, 1969, and 1973 — perhaps the conferees have forgotten the exoribitant price Lebanon paid as a result of Arab persistence in making Lebanon bear the brunt of their problems, maladies, and differences. After all these painful experiences, the conferees ought to have kept Lebanon from what Arab affiliation brings — dangers that have threatened and still threaten its existence and unity and the unity of its people and establishments. This is the case even though Lebanon participated in the establishment of the Arab League and has only done what is in keeping with its duty dictated by respect, solidarity, and fraternity.

At a time when Jordan's and Syria's Arabism did not prevent them from destroying any Palestinian they laid hand on, Lebanon's Arabism has been required to bear the brunt of the Palestinian burden, which has caused all the subsequent occupations which still prevent the return of a strong government and an able Army to spread sovereignty throughout Lebanon. This is because Syria rejects this just as the Palestinians did before.

B. The Lebanese people, history, and civilization cannot be confined and defined in terms of the heritage of the Arab and Arabism, however great, because Lebanon bears the interaction of several civilizations that preceded Arabism and Islam by thousands of years. Lebanon has always been open to every cultural richness from the East or West, unlike the countries that made Arabism their law and constitution, rendering them isolated from progress. They also lost the advantages and benefits of openness and cultural interaction.

C. There are beliefs, sensitivities, and feelings in Lebanon that cannot express themselves when Arabism is imposed on Lebanon as specific and restricting identity. These beliefs and feelings reject all attempts to be deprived of their historic identity and to be dominated by predominant surrounding.

D. What has been taking place in the southern suburb and the mountain before and after the dialogue indicates that certain parties to the dialogue are not in control of the areas they claim to represent. The decision is made and implemented and the cease-fire agreements are negotiated in Damascus and with its rulers.

E. The attempts to reconsider the 17 May agreement aimed to be a means to liberate Lebanon from all occupations, and the conferees request to President al-Jumayyil to act to achieve Israeli withdrawal without mentioning the Syrian and Palestinian occupations, will lead to the return of Lebanon to Syrian control. This is particularly so although the constitutional establishments, and the Chamber of Deputies in particular, have approved the agreement and insist on its implementation.

2. Regarding the criminal attacks in which soldiers serving peace in Lebanon were treacherously killed as were other Lebanese citizens in the bombing of the U.S. and French compounds in Beirut, and the bombing of the Israeli headquarters in the south, we strongly denounce these organized sabotage acts which are directed by the Syrian Government organs and Syrian rulers' decisions and implemented by their patronage and tools. We have been and still are victims of these barbaric acts. We have repeatedly cautioned those who go along with Syria and recognize that it has interests in Lebanon or are careless about its control of Lebanon, that this attitude will boomerang against the countries of the area and the entire free world. Syria together with Iran, Libya, and the Palestinian and local subversive stooges were open and never denied their aggressive intentions. They consider their attacks against the Multinational Force to be heroism and a political goal to again control Lebanon and make it a haven for international terrorism as it was before.

Christian Unions on Amending Lebanon's Identity

NC070948 Beirut AN-NAHAR in Arabic 4 Nov 83 p 4

[Unattributed report: "The Chrisian Leagues and the 'Christian Union': No One Has the Right To Amend Lebanon's Identity"]

[Text] The "Lebanese Christian Leagues Union" and the "Lebanese Christian Democratic Union" believe that Lebanon's identity "cannot be anything but Lebanese" and affirmed that "no one has the right to amend this identity."

The two unions have sent a cable to President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil, [former] Presidents Camille Sham'un and Sulayman Franjiyah, and Phalange Party leader Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil asking them to reconsider the definition of Lebanon's identity. The following is the text of the cable:

1. Lebanon's identity cannot be anything but Lebanese in accordance with the provisions of the constitution, exactly as Switzerland is Swiss and France is French. No one has the right to amend this identity which cannot be anything but Lebanese, the identity of the citizens.

2. Lebanon's affiliation with the Arab world has never been subject to debate among the Lebanese despite most of the Arab states' continuing interference in Lebanon's internal affairs and its adverse consequences.

3. In this definition [adopted at the Geneva conference], the Lebanese state has been called upon to embody the principles of Arab affiliation and identity for Lebanon in all domains without exception. This call is a flagrant contravention of the Lebanese Constitution and the plurality of the Lebanese people which is an obvious fact that nobody can deny.

4. We request that this definition in relation to Lebanon's identity and plurality be reconsidered.

General Strike Against Israel in South

NC080834 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 8 Nov 83

[Text] The cities and villages in southern Lebanon, particularly Sidon, Tyre, and An-Nabatiyah, appeared paralyzed in response to the general strike which reflects a unanimous will to confront Israeli practices and the closure of crossing points to and from the south. The strike also included the capital and its southern suburb and various Lebanese areas where businesses and establishments closed down expressing a united stance affirming adherence to national sovereignty and to the rejection of occupation.

Al-Wazzan Comments on Strike

NC081110 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 8 Nov 83

[Text] Commenting on the general strike in southern Lebanon, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has said:

[Begin recording] We are actually passing through very delicate national circumstances. I say national because it concerns the homeland and every citizen and concerns the present and the future. There is popular perception which strengthens the hope with cooperation and collaboration for the liberation and salvation of this homeland. The administrative body cannot be separated at the national level from the popular base. If the popular base today expresses its will by staging a strike, let this strike be a message to the world from Lebanon and the sons of Lebanon demanding an end to the nightmare of the occupation of their territory and an end to the oppression against the people. The administrative body cannot but participate in this expression in one way or another. If the citizens' requirements call for continuous service by the various departments, the least the employees at these departments can do is to express their feelings and participate in any stand and upsurge affirming Lebanon's sovereignty and the will of Lebanon and its people for liberation.

Naturally, be it with or without a strike, we are for Lebanon, with the people of Lebanon, and for the liberation of Lebanon. In your work you are serving the Lebanese people. By joining the officials responsible for your departments, you will be performing your national duty which our sons are performing today by expressing in their strike, a message about their feelings and demands for ending the occupation and every oppressive action against the Lebanese in any Lebanese area, particularly in the sad and steadfast south.

You and I this morning address greetings to our sons in the steadfast south and join them in protesting against what befell your colleagues the employees in various sectors, administrative and military, at the Sidon government house, and hope that your step, which we share with you, will lead to ending the injustice done to Lebanon and its dear south. [end recording]

4-Level Remedy Sought

NC081414 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1207 GMT 8 Nov 83

[Dispatch by correspondent Joe Sa'adah from Presidential Palace — live]

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim has stated that the Lebanese move to remedy the situation in the south is being conducted at four levels — the United Nations, the Arab League, the United States, and the states taking part in the Multinational Force. At the UN level, Salim said: We have contacted UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. We have briefed him on the serious practices going on in the south. These practices threaten the south because Israel is cutting roads and crossing points between the south and other areas in order to isolate it from the homeland. We requested the UN secretary general to consult with us about the appropriate means for putting an end to these Israeli practices.

Minister Salim added: At the Arab League level, we have contacted Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi and briefed him on current developments as well as on our contacts with the UN secretary general. We asked for his help to end this situation.

At the U.S. level, we are in constant and permanent contact with the United States which is our partner in the negotiations with Israel. We are in constant contact with the U.S. ambassador in Beirut. We asked him to seek the lifting of the siege of the south; to make the Israelis vacate Sidon's government house which is the main official center in the south; and to induce Israel to give up its attempts to destroy Lebanese authority in the south.

The U.S. side is maintaining its contacts with the Israeli officials. A part of our demands has been met. We hope that the remaining demands will be implemented soon.

At the level of the states participating in the Multinational Force, which have good relations with Israel, we have asked their assistance because we are in need of international support so that Israel may not find any pretexts to extend its control over southern Lebanon.

Israeli Force Crosses Al-Awwali River 7 Nov

NC071244 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] At 1045 today, an Israeli force consisting of 13 heavy vehicles and a bulldozer crossed the Bisri-Dayr al-Mukhallis bridge in the direction of the Al-Mtullah area.

State of Anxiety Prevails in Tripoli 8 Nov

NC080936 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 8 Nov 83

[Text] A state of intensive caution and anxiety prevails in Tripoli where shells are falling on the city and its residential areas bringing traffic to a standstill, closing down schools, businesses, and establishments, and confining people to their homes. Electrical power and telephone communication have been disrupted since yesterday afternoon. The Internal Security Forces this morning attempted to patrol the city but they were unable to do so because of the intensity of the shelling.

Italy Willing To Increase Reconstruction Aid

AU051436 Rome ANSA in English 0814 GMT 5 Nov 83

[Text] (ANSA) — Geneva, November 5 — Italy is willing to enlarge its aid plans for the reconstruction of the areas hardest hit by the latest fighting in Lebanon, Italy's ambassador to Switzerland told the Beirut Government foreign minister here.

In a communique released on Friday, Ambassador Stefano d'Andrea, who has been following the Lebanese Reconciliation Council talks here this week, announced that the offer had already been mentioned by Prime Minister Bettino Craxi and Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti. He also said that the increased aid would be part of the contributions forthcoming from a number of nations in the context of contributing to the reconstruction and reconciliation of Lebanon.

'Responsible Source' Confirms General Mobilization

JN071843 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1835 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] A responsible source has answered a question posed by a SANA correspondent regarding reports by news agencies that Syria has called in the reserve forces in Syria. The source said: Yes, it has been decided to call up the reserves to military service. The Syrian Arab people will affirm to the United States and Israel that Syria is not, and will never be, one of the things which may be swallowed.

Monte Carlo on State of Alert

JN071743 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Telephone dispatch by Louis Faris, Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Damascus — live or recorded]

[Text] I have learned that a state of general mobilization was proclaimed in Syria today and that the reserve forces are being asked to join their units. It has been noticed that Damascus radio broadcasted coded messages calling the reserve forces to join their units. I have also learned that all the Syrian Armed Forces have been placed on a state of alert. This is taking place at a time when official Syrian sources decline to comment on these developments.

The official Syrian media, however, have highlighted that Washington in the first move of its kind since World War II, is massing a naval strike force in the Eastern Mediterranean and that this force comprises 3 aircraft carriers and 300 warplanes — that is, approximately half the U.S. Naval strike force — and that this force will arrive in the region a few days from now. While the Syrian media expect a joint Israeli-U.S. aggression against Syria, the newspaper *AL-BA'TH* highlights that President Reagan insists on confronting Syria. The paper also highlights the continued arrival of U.S. military forces off the Lebanese coast, the intensification of reconaissance sorties by the U.S. Air Force, and the statements and provocations made by some U.S. officials.

The Syrian Council of Ministers today met under Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Rauf al-Kasm. After discussing the contents of the statement that the government will submit to the Peoples Assembly on the implementation of the 1983 development plan in Syria, the Council of Ministers was briefed by Syrian Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas on the current situation in the region from the military point of view. Gen Talas stressed Syrias capability in repulsing any aggression, regardless of its nature.

Cabinet Discusses Military Situation 7 November

JN071426 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] In Damascus, the Council of Ministers met at noon today under Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Rauf al-Kasm.

The Council of Ministers discussed the contents of the statement to be submitted by the government to the People's Assembly next week on the implementation of the plan for economic and social development in Syria during this year.

Following the discussion, Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas briefed the Council on the current situation in the region from the military point of view and stressed Syrias ability to repulse any aggression, regardless of its nature.

Al-Asad Confers With Lebanon's Rashid Karami

JN071953 Damascus Television Service 1800 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] AT 1945 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Rashid Karami, former Lebanese prime minister and one of the Lebanese National Salvation Front leaders. During the meeting, the talks revolved around the Lebanese National Dialogue Conference which was held in Geneva, and the results being achieved in the first phase of its meetings. The talks also dealt with the situation in the region, the developments in the Lebanese arena, and the efforts being exerted to stop the fighting between the Palestinian brothers. They also discssed ways to help the Palestinians patch up their differences in a way that serves the Palestine cause.

Reportage of Italian Foreign Minister's Visit

Al-Asad on Palestinian Stand

JN071302 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] At 1200 today President Hafiz al-Asad received Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Aldo Pugliese, Italian ambassador in Damascus, attended the meeting. Talks dealt with the situation in the region and developments in the Lebanese arena. Andreotti praised Syrias constructive role and the influence of the presidents leading personality in the region and the world. He expressed Italy's hopes that stability and tranquility will prevail in the region.

The president briefed the Italian minister on Syria's principled stands toward the regions current affairs. He greatly deplored what is happening among the Palestinian brothers and said: Syria exerted its utmost efforts to help the Palestinian brothers solve their differences. However, a well-known side has complicated and escalated matters. The president said: Syria considers the question of the Palestinian Arab people its own question. It has always been committed to it, is still committed to it, and will continue to be committed to defend it, considering it the Arab nations central national issue. The president added: We in Syria distinguish between a stand toward an issue and a stand toward persons. We distinguish between the stand toward the PLO and the stand toward a person. The Palestinian question and the PLO are not linked with one or more persons. Moreover, the gains achieved by The Palestinian revolution were not achieved by an individual or individuals by themselves. He said that Syria bases its stand according to principles and the issue itself, and not according to the relationship with one or more persons.

The Syrian side led by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and the Italian side led by Andreotti held an official session of talks at the Foreign Ministry this morning. Assistant Foreign Minister Isam an-Naib and the directors of the Arab homeland, West Europe, and information departments at the Foreign Ministry attended the talks. The members of the delegation accompanying Andreotti also attended them. The two sides discussed the current Middle East political situation and bilateral relations.

Leaders Cited on PLO, Lebanon

LD071747 Rome International Service in Italian 1555 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Syria wants a political solution which will guarantee Lebanon's unity and independence and has no territorial designs. Syria is not involved in the attacks on the men of the multinational force and against the Israelis. The government in Damascus is not acting either in favor or against 'Arafat's PLO. These are the replies which Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti had from President al-Asad and Foreign Minister Khaddam during his mission in Syria which ended today.

The Syrian president told Andreotti that he considered the first results of the Geneva conference for reconciliation in Lebanon to be clearly positive. Acting on Syrian optimism over the developments at the Geneva conference, Minister Andreotti asked Al-Asad whether he considers the proposal to send Italian and Greek observers to the Ash-Shuf to have been shelved and he received a positive reply: If the Geneva process goes ahead, then the question of Italian observers — and this coincides with Andreotti's opinion — is no longer pertinent.

What is the Italian outlook on its presence in the Multinational Force in Beirut? Andreotti made it clear that Italy does not want to stay in Lebanon 1 minute longer than necessary. In Andreotti and Khaddam's view, a sudden withdrawal of Italian soldiers would have a negative effect.

ANSA on Talks

AU071845 Rome ANSA in English 1835 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] (ANSA) - Damascus, November 7 — Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti in his talks here today with head-of-state Hafiz al-Asad was explicitly told that Syria stands ready to back any effort that would lead to a sovereign, independent and united Lebanon. Syria also said it had no designs on that beleaguered country as [word indistinct] Lebanon would leave a dangerous weak spot also for Damascus. Al-Asad voiced satisfaction over the first results to come out of the Geneva conference on Lebanese national reconciliation, results, he said, which had gone far beyond expectations. He indicated that should further progress be made at the conference, plans to post Italian and Greek observers in the Ash-Shuf Mountains could be dropped. However, Italy still has a contingent of soldiers in the multinational peacekeeping force in Lebanon and Andreotti insisted that Italy did not want to remain in Lebanon one minute longer than necessary. However, Al-Asad cautioned the Italian official that any too hurried withdrawal of the contingent couldprove harmful.

Syria also disclaimed any direct or indirect responsibility for the serious acts of terrorism in Beirut against American and French troops and in Tyre against the Israelis.

Al-Asad also told Andreotti that not one Syrian soldier was taking part in the fierce fighting between opposing Palestinian factions in northern Lebanon. [passage indistinct]

(?Prior) to his departure this afternoon for Rome, Andreotti met with the President of the PLO National Council Khalid al-Fahum to learn the latest developments in the Palestinian situation. The Palestinian official did not deny 'Arafat's legitimate authority but said he also understood the view of his opponents.

[Word indistinct] officials pointed out to Andreotti the massive U.S. presence in Lebanese waters. The Italian official reported on his recent encounter in France with the other foreign ministers of nations having contingents in the peacekeeping force (George Shultz for the U.S., Claude Cheysson for France, and Geoffrey Howe for Britain) and ruled out any plans for reprisal action against Syria. Any such move would be counter to efforts being made in Geneva reconciliation [word indistinct], he said.

Damascus Radio on Israeli, U.S. Military Moves

JN080730 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0715 GMT 8 Nov 83

[Text] In occupied Palestine the Zionist government has called for the largest mobilization of its military reserves and has confiscated all types of civilian buses and transport vehicles.

Washington reports stress that the U.S. naval concentrations off the Lebanese coasts have been intensified.

Damascus on U.S. Plans Against Syria

JN071759 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] The U.S. Administration is currently staging a military demonstration in the eastern Mediterranean. Amid a large-scale media campaign, U.S. warships and aircraft carriers are being sent to the eastern Mediterranean, particularly to Lebanese territorial waters and not to nearby interantional waters. U.S. and Western media organs say that there are dozens of U.S. warships massed off the Lebanese coast. Such a U.S. military demonstration rarely takes place in times of peace, and one of its objectives is either to direct a threat to some sides or to prepare for carrying out some aggressive action like the one recently carried out in Grenada.

The U.S. Government's decision to concentrate its forces in the eastern Mediterranean means that the U.S. Administration wants to continue the policy of the gun and the rifle in order to subjugate peoples and impose its will on others; a policy practiced by traditional colonialist and imperialist states in the past which finally went into the dustbin of history under the influence of the balance of forces that appeared in the world. U.S. actions in the eastern Mediterranean confirm the trend of President Reagan's administration to increase tension in the region and increase the possibilities of collision. They also affirm this administration's insistence on exacerbating international relations, continuing the policy of the Cold War, and approaching the real war in quick moves.

When U.S. and Western media present [word indistinct] link to the recent U.S. moves in the region, and hint that the U.S. Administration might consider a retaliatory action as a result of the bombing of the Marines' headquarters — an action represented by dealing a blow to the launching pads of the Syrian missiles near Beirut or to other places in Lebanon — and when Western media mention the name of Syria and the possibility of carrying out a military operation against it, it means that the U.S. Government might adopt two moves: First, the move to increase psychological war against Syria; a move which is useless because Syria's nerves are strong and neither threat nor a psychological war will affect it. Second, the U.S. Administration's adventurist trend might lead it to a foolish and serious military operation against Syria. Here, the rulers of Washington should remember that the Middle East region is not a desert [word indistinct], that the Mediterranean is not a U.S. lake, that big interests intermingle, meet, and collide in this region, and that any mistake here might lead to grave consequences, possibilities, and developments that are not now taken into account. There is an Arab proverb that says calculations in the city do not match those in the villages.

The Washington rulers should also remember that Syria, as President Hafiz al-Asad put it, will defend itself with all the required courage and capability and with all its potentials, and that it will not yield to threats, blackmail, or even to aggression. It is true that the United States is a superpower and is strong militarily, but it is also true that the cause for which the United States is working is not a just one. The cause which Syria defends is a just one because it is the cause of freedom, the right of self-determination, and respect for the principles of the UN Charter and international law. Every peace-loving people and every advocate of peoples' freedom hope that the United States will not take actions that might expose the region to dangers that are not calculated, and to new pains and possibilities whose dimensions and consequences might not be understood. The United States tried to stop the wheels of development in Vietnam and to subjugate peoples by force. The results of that attempt are well known, and it is no secret to say that Israel, encouraged by the United States, has underestimated the situation in the Middle East along with all norms, laws and rights in a situation that might explode if some adventurists continue playing with fire near the power key.

Media Cited on 'Imminent' U.S.-Israeli 'Aggression'

JN072013 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1850 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] The U.S. officials' statements and the reinforcement of U.S. forces in the eastern Mediterranean indicate that the Pentagon is preparing for a military action in the Middle East region that will be commensurate with the U.S. general policy. More about these statements and reinforcements in the following report:

Those interested in Middle East developments consider the reinforcements sent to the U.S. Marines in Lebanon and the sailing of U.S. warships toward the Lebanese coast to be great proof of the Pentagon's intention to launch an aggression against Syria because of Syria's firm stand against the imperialist and Zionist plans in the region. They affirm that past U.S.-Israeli cooperation will be the ground on which the U.S. Administration will base its new move; and that Israel will be the U.S. Administration's tool to realize U.S. objectives. However, this time there will be a direct, mass U.S. participation in this aggression.

These observers have linked the U.S. and Israeli threats to their hostile policies against the Arab nation's rights in general, and Lebanon in particular.

Affirming these views, AFP has noted the U.S. Administration's intention to mount, in cooperation with its tool, Israel, a major military operation that will be directed mainly at Syria. In a long report today, the agency pointed out that a final decision has not yet been made on the timing and place of this aggression. However, the agency said that this great U.S. naval concentration in the eastern Mediterranean proves U.S. intentions — which the U.S. officials have not denied — to mount such an aggression.

In its report, the agency said: Despite the White House and the Pentagon's attempts to play down the significance of the great military concentrations off the Lebanese coast, experts believe that everthing is now ready to mount this aggression. Despite the presence of more than 30 U.S. naval pieces, including three aircraft carriers inthe eastern Mediterranean, the U.S. Administration is sending more. Latest reports say that the Aircraft carrier *Kennedy* and its six guarding ships have been ordered to move toward the Lebanese coast.

On this unprecedented escalation not observed since World War II, the Tunisian paper *AS-SABAH* wondered about the aim of this escalation and the side to which these military threats are directed. The paper says that unmistakable indications prove the possibility of a big military operation against Syria, similar to the 1956 tripartite aggression against Egypt.

The Tunisian French-Language newspaper *LE TEMPS'* editorial today was devoted to the U.S. threats and dangers as a result of the great concentrations off the Lebanese coast. It affirmed that they will be used against the forces which oppose U.S. desires and intentions. While appealing to the international community to effect solidarity in the face of the new U.S.-Israeli aggression, the paper affirmed that this aggression will result in new setbacks for its perpetrators in the region.

Libyan Statement of Support for Syria Reported

JN080710 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 8 Nov 83

[Text] Tripoli, Libya — Libya has announced that it will stand with all its capabilities alongside Syria if it becomes exposed to aggression by the United States and its allies and is compelled to enter into a confrontation in defense of its freedom and territorial integrity. This came in a statement issued by the Libyan People's Foreign Liaison Bureau.

The statement expresses Libya's concern over the movements of the U.S. fleets and forces and some NATO forces toward Syria. It stresses that these movements presage that the U.S. Administration and its allies are contemplating carrying out an aggressive action against the fraternal Syrian people and its revolutionary leadership.

The Bureau appealed to the fraternal Arab states to stand alongside Syria militarily and with all other means in support of its steadfastness in defending Arab dignity. It also called on the international community to condemn the U.S. muscle flexing and its dragging of the NATO forces down a grave slippery path which could in the end lead to a confrontation with the Arab nation from the ocean to the Gulf.

Commentary Denies Involvement in Fatah Fighting

JN080701 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0526 GMT 8 Nov 83

[Unscheduled station commentary]

[Text] As part of a coordinated campaign unleashed since the Fatah uprising was staged, quarters linked with the imperialist and Zionist propaganda organs have embarked on distorting Syria's stand in support of the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian Arab people's struggle. These quarters began to involve Syria's name in the fighting currently taking place in Tripoli and northern Lebanon.

Syria announced and announces again that it has nothing to do with the current fighting among the Palestinian brothers in northern Lebanon and Tripoli, and that no Syria soldier is participating in this fighting. Moreover, not a single shot was fired from Syrian weapons except against the enemies of the Palestinian question and the enemies of the fateful issue. Although the Palestinian fighters in northern Lebanon are well aware of this fact and of the Syrian stand toward the internecine Fatah conflict, Yasir 'Arafat is trying to implicate Syria in order to undermine its militant status and its firm, principled stands toward the Palestinian revolution in an attempt to justify his [word indistinct] on the level of the Palestinian masses and on the level of the large-scale rejection of his political line and his hegemonic leadership. However, this cannot beguile our Arab people anywhere. These people know 'Arafat's history, which abounds with accusations and offenses against Syria. He harmed Syria and its Armed Forces when he denied its heroic role in confronting the barbaric Israeli invasion of Lebanon and in honorably defending Beirut and both the Lebanese and Palestinian people.

Since all events and facts in the region prove that Syria, with its militant stands and principles, has become the target of the imperialist-Zionist scheme as a result of this, it is no wonder that 'Arafat speaks against Syria. This is because the aim and method are one, and they seek to remove the main obstacle that is facing the plotting against the Palestinian question and that is confronting all capitulatory solutions.

Those who are involving Syria in what is taking place among the Palestinians in Lebanon are, at the least, quarters sympathizing with Israel and, at the most, plotters against the Palestinian Arab people's cause. They revolve within the vital sphere of the propaganda trumpets in West Europe in particular and in the West in general.

Syria reaffirms that it has nothing to do with the current fighting among the Palestinian brothers. This is a fact stemming from its unwavering principles and militant history, which every Palestinian Arab citizen knows and which prove that Syria was and is still on the side of the Palestinian revolution, sacrificing all of its potential for the sake of its victory and for the final defeat of the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary forces.

Amman Embassy on Palestinian's Memorandum

JN071920 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus, 7 Nov (SANA) The Syrian Embassy in Amman today issued the following statement:

In its newscast at 1400 this afternoon, Amman Radio broadcast a report that a Palestinian delegation representing the Palestinian camps in Jordan submitted a memorandum to the Syrian Arab Republic's Embassy in Amman condemning what was termed as the Syrian-Libyan intervention in the existing conflict inside Fatah.

The Syrian Arab Republic's Embassy in Amman regrets that an official iformation organ published such a false report. What was broadcast in Amman radio's aforementioned cast is unture, and what happened is quite the opposite.

A Palestinian delegation did visit the Syrian Embassy and, after it inquired about the truth of the situation in Tripoli, expressed its understanding of the Syrian Arab patriotic stand. No memorandum was submitted. The delegation realized that the Syrian stand is concerned about all Palestinian sides and wants to sotp the Palestinian bloodshed. The delegation voiced its awareness of the fact that the Palestinian revolution began from Syria and it knows that many sides ignored Syria's sacrifices for well-known reasons. The delegation underlined its awareness of the vicious onslaught aimed against Syria in this particular stage, and knows the objectives behind massing the fleets off the Syrian and Lebanese coasts. The delegation asserted that Syria is the sole hope left.

As it outlines those facts before Arab public opinion in general and the Palestinians in particular, the embassy wishes to stress that there are certain sides which claim to work for the unity of the Arab ranks and Arab solidarity, and for the support of the Palestinian cause, but at the same time, they also work to harm Syria and its valiant stand in the face of plots aimed against the Palestinian cause and the Arab nation.

Papers Denounce 'Arafat's Plotting, Slander

JN081008 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 8 Nov 83

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Slander Against Syria Cannot Conceal 'Arafat's Plotting," *AL-BA'TH* says: Since the first moment of the eruption of fighting in northern Lebanon and Tripoli, the rabid trumpets have been reporting and neiterating the false statements of 'Arafat and his clique that Syria is behind this fighting, and that it is participating in this fighting with its forces and weapons.

Despite the fact that Syria has announced frankly that it is not a party to this fighting, and despite the statements and confirmations of the factions of the Palestinian resistance and all the Palestinian fighters, except 'Arafat's clique, that Syria is not a party to this fratricide and has not participated in it, the supporters of Israel, the enemies of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, and some Western and European sides and parties who sympathize with Israel have escalated the rancorous campaign against Syria and deliberately inceased the involvement of Syria's name in the fratricide currently taking place in Tripoli and northern Lebanon. The objectives of this rancorous campaign are clear. Those who are behind this campaign basically aim at distorting Syria and defending 'Arafat and his conspiratorial course. They also aim at finding a way out or a means to alleviate the stifling situation of the Israeli-U.S. design. Moreover, they are seeking to find a way out of the impasse that has been reached in the region.

Syria announces again that it has nothing to do with the current fratricide in Tripoli and northern Lebanon and that the Syrian forces have not fired a single shot in this fratricide. Moreover, no Syrian soldier is participating in this fighting. Syria has nothing whatsoever to do with what is taking place there.

If 'Arafat, who has and is deliberately trying to offend Syria and to involve its name in matters with which it has nothing to do, then this is not new regarding 'Arafat's behavior, because everyone can recall that 'Arafat had deliverately accused Syria of what had taken place at Tal az-Za'tar. All those who have any relationship with the Lebanese situation know that the Syrian forces were not present in the Tal az-Za'tar area. Out of his rancour against the heroic Syrian stand and the Syrian Armed Forces' role, 'Arafat has spared no effort to ignore the role of our forces in the fighting in beirut and their defense of the Palestinian and Lebanese Arab people during the siege.

AL-BA'TH adds: When 'Arafat seeks to involve Syria in domestic Palestinian differences in a deliberate attempt to harm this struggler and steadfast country, he is doing so because he tries to conceal his fiasco in settling the problems which he and his clique created inside the Palestinian house. Syria, and this is a well-known fact, has nothing to do with the differences among 'Arafat and the other Palestinian leaders. Syria has also spared no effort to assist the Palestinian brothers to settle their problems, but a known side — namely 'Arafat and his henchmen — are the ones which rejected to respond to the political dialogue and refused to avoid shedding the Palestinian blood. 'Arafat has insisted on resorting to arms in an attempt to forcibly impose his conspiratorial political line on all the Palestinian groups.

Syria's stand toward the Palestinian question will not be changed. The rancorous campaign of distortion will only strengthen Syria's determination to defend the Palestinian question, the Arab nation's central issue. Syria under its party annd its secretary general, comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, will continue to distinguish between the issue and a conspiratorial person who is full of rancors against his comrades and the sons of his people, who rejected to accept the course of capitulation and the Israeli- U.S. humiliation. In this steadfast Arab country, we will continue to distinguish between the PLO and a person who is mentally deranged, who has rejected the logic of dialogue and resorted to arms to shed blood, and who willingly carried out what his masters ordered him to do. Our stands will only be decided through principles and firm and continued concern about our nation's first and sacred issue, the Palestinian question.

On the same subject, *TISHRIN* says: 'Arafat who has persisted in involving Syria's name aims at concealing his failure, his exposed capitulatory role, and his call for dialogue and understanding with the hangmen of the Palestinian Arab people and the usurpers of their land. 'Arafat's history is very long and full of harm against Syria which opened its heart for 'Arafat and has embraced the Palestinian revolution since its eruption. Moreover, Syria has sacrificed the blood of its sons in defense of the Palestinian question.

'Arafat who sparked off the Tripoli incidents, and who is aiming the Palestinian bullets against the Palestinians, is now speaking about Tal az-Za'tar and what took place there. 'Arafat knows better than anyone else that Syria has nothing whatsoever to do with the incidents of Tal az-Za'tar and that Syria's forces at that time were not present in the Tal az-Za'tar area or even close to it. Syria now also has nothing whatsoever to do with the tripoli incidents.

The one who is killing the Palestinians today, and the one who has murdered them is 'Arafat and his rancorous rightist clique — 'Arafat who rejected the democratic dialogue and the internal reform, ignored all the mediation committees and their decisions, resorted to arms, and sparked off the regrettable incidents in tripoli at present and in the past. In the past, when he killed the Lebanese nationalists, and at present when he started the attack on his brothers in arms and struggle.

'Arafat's wrong doings are strong denunciation of his course and a clear sign of his collapse. Syria, as usual, and as struggler leader Hafiz al-Asad has stressed more than once, is committed to defending the Palestinian question, given that it is our nation's central issue. Syria will continue to defend the Palestinian question regardless of the size of conspiracies, because the issue is bigger than individuals. Syria is for Palestine in the same measure that Palestine is for Palestine. We must prove this.

Saudi Envoy Arrives With Message for Al-Asad

JN071342 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus — Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz at-Tuwayjiri, deputy commander of the Saudi National Guard, arrived in Damascus at 1100 today on a visit to Syria. He was received at Damascus International Airport by 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi, minister of state for presidential affairs, and the Saudi charge d'affaires in Damascus. In a statement to SANA, At-Tuwayjiri expressed his happiness to be visiting Syria, adding that he will convey a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Received by Al-Asad

JN071439 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1420 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus, 7 Nov (SANA) — At 1415 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz at-Tuwayjiri, deputy commander of the Saudi National Guard and King Fahd's envoy. Shaykh at-Tuwayjiri conveyed to the president King Fahd's message on the situation in the region. The president asked Shaykh at-Tuwayjiri to carry a reply message.

Leaves Damascus 7 Nov

JN071832 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz at-Tuwayjiri, deputy commander of the Saudi National Guard and King Fahd's envoy, left Damascus today. Shaykh at-Tuwayjiri met with President Hafiz al-Asad and delivered to him a message from King Fahd. President al-Asad asked him to convey a reply message to the Saudi king stressing Syria's concern to prevent fighting among the Palestinian brothers and to pursue efforts in helping them settle their differences.

Reportage on Visit of GDR's Guenther Kleiber

Arrives, Makes Statement

JN051708 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus —Guenther Kleiber, deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, arrived in Damascus this afternoon at the head of an economic delegation on a 4-day visit to Syria.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Kleiber expressed his pleasure and that of the accompanying delegation with this visit. He stressed the desire of the GDR party and state for promoting relations of cooperation with Syria in all spheres. He also stressed his country's solidarity with the Syrian people's just struggle to foil the imperialist designs that are aimed at imposing U.S. hegemony over the region. Kleiber denounced the direct U.S. military interference in Lebanon, which would turn that country into an imperialist base to escalate tension in the Arab region and to strike at Syria's steadfastness.

Economic Talks Begin

JN052048 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 5 Nov 83

[Text] A meeting was held this evening between 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and Guenther Kleiber, deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, and some members of the technical and economic delegation accompanying him. The two sides reviewed the commercial, economic, technical, and scientific relations between the two countries and the means of further promoting and strengthening them in the fields of industrial, productive, and services projects. They also reviewed increasing the size of trade exchange between the two sides by expanding the size of Syrian exports to the GDR in return for purchasing GDR-made machines and equipment, particularly agricultural equipment. Kleiber's visit to Syria comes within the framework of the meetings the joint Syrian-GDR committee is holding in Damascus.

More on Talks

JN061826 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1435 GMT 6 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus, 6 Nov (SANA) — The sessions of the Joint Syrian-GDR Committee for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation began here today. 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, led the Syrian Arab side, and Guenther Kleiber, deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, led the GDR side. During the meeting, Qaddurah touched on relations of economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between the two friendly countries and the means to promote them through implementing agricultural, industrial, and services projects as well as increasing commercial exchange.

Kleiber also expressed his thanks for the efforts that are being exerted by Syria to promote cooperation between the two countries, and asserted his country's readiness to offer all kinds of potentials to expand bilateral cooperation in all fields. At the end of the meeting, working teams were formed from the two delegations to study the various aspects of economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between the two countries. The results of their studies will be presented to the joint committee.

Received by General Talas

JN061245 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus — General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief and defense minister, received in his office today Guenther Kleiber, deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, and the accompanying delegation. The meeting, which was attended by the GDR ambassador in Damascus and the military attache at the embassy, reviewed the situation in the Middle East and bilateral relations between the two friendly countries.

Kleiber affirmed his country's support for Syria in confronting U.S. imperialist and Zionist challenges. He also affirmed the GDR's support for the Palestinian people's just right to liberate their land and regain their legitimate rights. Kleiber's visit to

Syria falls within the framework of the close cooperation between the two friendly countries and the promottion of this cooperation for the wellbeing of both peoples.

Meets Electricity Minister

JN071629 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1245 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus, 7 Nov (SANA) — Minister of Electricity Dr Ahmad 'Umar Yusuf met here today with Guenther Kleiber, GDR Council of Ministers deputy chairman, and his delegation currently visiting Syria. The GDR ambassador in Damascus and the Syrian commercial attache in Berlin attended the meeting. During the meeting, they reviewed the existing cooperation between both countries in the sphere of electricty. They also discussed the power projects in Syria which the GDR is participating in as well as the means of promoting bilateral relations.

Romania's Oprea Signs Economic Protocol

JN042140 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Nov 83

[Text] Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Gheorghe Oprea and his delegation left Damascus this morning after a 5-day visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Dr 'Abd al-Jabbar ad-Dahhak, minister of oil and natural resources; the Romanian ambassador in Damascus; and the embassy staff. Oprea made a statement in which he expressed his full satisfaction with the results of his visit to Syria, and said: During our meeting with President al-Asad, we realized his deep concern over the joint committee's work to promote friendly relations between our two countries. He added that President al-Asad highly valued the growth of the bilateral relations in serving the interests of our two countries.

Concerning the talks he held in Syria, Oprea said: Several projects and matters were reviewed and we laid down a common concept to ensure objective circumstances for developing the relations of economic cooperation between our two countries. We took the necessary measures to reach the aspired level for these relations.

A protocol on joint economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between Syria and Romania was concluded yesterday at the end of the fifth session of meetings the joint Syrian- Romanian committee held. During these meetings, the committee reviewed the progress of work in implementing the approved projects and discussed future prospects of cooperation in new industrial and agricultural projects that were defined for the next protocol. The date for holding the sixth session in Bucharest was fixed. Qaddurah and Oprea signed the protocol. Qaddurah spoke highly about Syrian-Romanian relations, and stressed the need to promote them and to expedite work in the projects that the Romanian side is currently implementing. He said: This session was a good one. We discussed all matters and projects in minute detail and we were able to make progress in the field of economic cooperation.

Shamir Tours Lebanon, Dismisses Syrian Moves

TA081544 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1520 GMT 8 Nov 83

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel — recorded]

[Text] [Begin Shamir recording] Over the last few days, we have heard a lot of talk about mobilization, threats — we are used to such things. We are accustomed to living in the shadow of threats. We are not excited by them. We know the truth, and it is that we are not threatening anyone, and no one has cause to fear us unless he is plotting against us. [end recording]

This was stated during the first visit by the prime minister to Lebanon since Menahem Begin handed the Beaufort Fortress over to Sa'd Haddad's soldiers. Yitzhaq Shamir viewed the Al-Biqa' Valley, toured outposts and the command posts, and flew over the Al-Awwali line. In the course of the visit, he said that the question of blockading that line is difficult, and there are pro's and con's either way.

Shamir toured the Lebanese front as Damascus was declaring a mobilization, a large U.S. Navy flotilla was sailing the Mediterranean, and the siege of 'Arafat in Tripoli was getting tighter. Shamir does not believe a confrontation is imminent between the United States and Syria. In the course of his tour, he emphasized over and over again that Israel is not seeking a clash with any Arab country, and plans to leave Lebanon when it is satisfied that no danger lurks from the areas it will evacuate. Shamir refrained from mentioning the Israeli-Lebanese accord.

[Begin Shamir recording] The moment we are convinced that no more attacks are launched against us from here, we will leave this soil and let the Lebanese conduct their own affairs. But as long as there is such a danger, from the terrorists or the Syrians or others, we have no choice but to sit here and defend Israel, all of it. The more they perpetrate terrorist acts, the more they will put off the day when we leave these places. [end recording]

'No Offensive Intentions'

TA071755 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Report by military correspondent Shmu'el Tal — live in the studio]

[Text] The defense establishment is closely following Syria's moves and intentions. The IDF is alert and concerned at the same time. Although it is easy to see where the Syrian moves begin, like those that are currently taking place, it is difficult to tell where they will end. An analysis of the situation shows some credible possibilities with regard to the Syrian callup: Perhaps the Syrians are truly afraid of a U.S. offensive, as they have explained in public; or perhaps they think Israel will attack them, which they have not said.

The facts in the field are as follows: A large U.S. flotilla is moving toward the eastern part of the Middle Eastern basin, including three aircraft carriers and auxiliary vessels. U.S. Under Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger visited Israel a few days ago, and the Syrians are oblivious of what he discussed and what was agreed upon in talks with him. The Syrians, realizing that they are behind the attacks in Tyre and U.S. Marine headquarters in Beirut, may fear that Israel is about to retaliate and take action against them, both on behalf of the Americans as well as on behalf of Israel, while the navy that is being rushed to the area is intended to support such a retaliatory action.

Late last week, Israel hit terrorist objectives in the Ash-Shuf Mountains, and it is being claimed by Lebanese sources that the attacks also hit Syrians. The question is whether those who planned these offensives anticipated a Syrian reaction, and what kind.

After the war, what used to be defined as terrorist objectives are no longer exactly terrorist targets; Syria's power is not the same; and an air raid on Ash-Shuf should take Syrian reaction into account.

Right now the Syrians are in the process of calling up their reservists, and the danger is that the very presence of two armies next to each other, while the atmosphere is one of mobilization on one side of the line and a callup exercise on the other, might have its own dynamics. It would only take accidental shooting from the Syrian Army in Al-Biqa' at an IDF patrol, entailing some casualties, and we might immediately find ourselves in the midst of a war of attrition.

To repeat, there is also the point of the IDF's public callup exercise, which was planned a long time ago — which is why Israel is publicizing it so that no fears are triggered in the Arab states.

Naturally, the Syrians may not believe Israel's announcements, but at any rate, security sources told us that Israel has no offensive intentions. At the same time, the IDF is following the Syrian alignment and deployment very carefully and with great interest and will employ all the moves required from the above.

Callup Exercise 'Imminent'

TA071822 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] The IDF spokesman announces that a public reserves callup exercise is imminent. The exercise is intended to drill the reserve units in the public, open callup method, and examine this method's effectiveness. The exercise will involve several thousand reservists as well as a mobilized vehicle unit. The announcement on showing up at the units will be carried on both radio and television. Immediately after the announcement is made on radio and television, the reservist will ascertain whether the codeword for his unit's callup appears, and if so he must immediately report to the permanent assembly place, from where he will be picked up for his unit, or alternatively report directly to his unit. The people who are called up will be discharged in stages, following a brief registration [qelita] process. After the codeword for the mobilized vehicle unit is published, the vehicles must be brought to the reserve vehicle unit parking lot, where they will undergo a short process of registration and then be discharged. The owner of a vehicle who has also been called up to the reserve unit will first bring the car to the reserve vehicle unit parking lot and only then report to his unit. If, in the course of the exercise, an emergency situation arises, an announcement to this effect will be made in all media. This was the IDF spokesman's announcement on a public callup exercise to report for reserve duty soon.

IDF 'Closely Monitoring' Mobilization

TA080720 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Nov 83 p 1

[Report by Joshua Brilliant]

[Text] The Israel Defence Forces were closely monitoring the Syrian Army mobilization yesterday, and senior sources here expressed concern about a possible deterioration in the situation.

Sources here said they believed the just-completed visit of U.S. Undersecretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger in Israel may have contributed to Syrian nervousness. Israeli officials had said Eagleburger's mission had been designed to prepare the ground for closer cooperation between the U.S. and Israel. But the Syrians may have read more into it. Presumably the planned Israeli large-scale call-up exercise further heightened Syrian tension. Yesterday morning the IDF spokesman announced that the exercise was "approaching." The plan, according to Deputy Chief of Staff Aluf (Major General) David 'Ivri, is to call up tens of thousands of men. Some are to be released immediately and some after arriving at their emergency stores and possibly going through a brief exercise.

Senior defence establishment sources said the announcements on the exercise were designed to allay Syrian fears of an attack. They added that assurances that Israel does not plan an attack on Syria had been conveyed through the UN and other channels.

Asked why Syria should believe these assurances in view of its experience of June 1982, when Israel invaded Lebanon, an aide to Defence Minister Moshe Arens said, " Now there is a new government. We really have no intentions (of attacking)."

According to the Tel Aviv University's Jaffa Centre for Strategic Studies' report on the military balance for 1983, a general call-up would increase the Syrian army's forces from 240,000 to 700,000 men. First word of the call-up was broadcast at 3:15 p.m. It was immediately followed by reports on a general state of alert in Syria.

Former Intelligence Chiefs on Syrian Actions

Sagi Interview

TA080855 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Nov 83 p 2

[Interview with former chief of the IDF Intelligence Branch Major General (Reserves) Yehoshu'a Sagi by Dan Margalit: "Involved Scenarios" — date and place not given]

[Text] [Margalit] What is your reaction to the general callup in Syria?

[Sagi] I am relying on the information broadcast on television. We do not know of a move, only of a general callup. Syria opted for a public callup at a time when it could have chosen another path.

[Margalit] How should we interpret this step?

[Sagi] I do not know just how serious is the matter of the 6th Fleet heading toward Beirut. The Syrians have generally not panicked in the past. It is also difficult for me to see how the Americans would attack the Syrians and engage in land battles in Lebanon with them. If the ships are intended only to be used to fire at Syrian targets, Syria does not need a callup, all the more so as it should be recalled that the Soviet Union is standing at its side.

[Margalit] Is the callup aimed at Israel?

[Sagi] That is the second possibility. It is as though Syria is telling Israel: We know you. You are calling up an army and you declare you will not go to war, but you also say you will not move until terrorism is eliminated and so on. You, Israel, attacked terrorist targets from the air after the blow in Tyre, and, in fact, you attacked Syrian positions. You are undoubtedly plotting to do something before the winter. Take care; Syria is on alert.

[Margalit] Is this connected with the Syrian attack against Yasir 'Arafat?

[Sagi] Syria may be constructing the following scenario: Dear friends, we now have a problem with the PLO. This is a sensitive problem among all the world's Muslims. It would be desirable for Syria if attention were to be diverted to an external enemy on the front, with Syria representing part of the Arab consensus.

[Margalit] In your opinion, what is the scenario best representing reality?

[Sagi] My feeling is that this is fear of Israel or the desire to demonstrate power to it.

[Margalit] And why just now?

[Sagi] Our aerial attack after the blow in Tyre was not so clever. This was a return to the old policy after the conditions in the field had already changed.

[Margalit] Are there lessons for the future?

[Sagi] I am distrubed by what will happen after this. Two large armies are facing each other, within eyesight of each other. Any patrol incident could deteriorate into a firing incident and nervousness, which could deteriorate into a war of attrition. I would examine another direction: Where is the Soviet Union in this story? There may be a Soviet interest just at this moment. After the U.S. invasion of Grenada and the Russians in Afghanistan, the Soviets have an interest in signaling to the United States: Come and let us sit down to talk before it is too late. This is what scares me particularly. Because as soon as those two sit down to talk, Israel has a problem.

Yariv Interview

TA080755 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Nov 83 pp 1, 4

[Report by Joshua Brilliant]

[Text] Former director of military intelligence Aluf (res.) [Major General] Aharon Yariv said yesterday he believes Syria does not want to initiate a war with Israel now.

Yariv, who heads the Jaffe Centre for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University, was addressing reporters several hours before Damascus Radio broadcast call up orders for reservists. His press conference was called to mark the publication of the "Middle East Balance" study for 1983 (published in conjunction with *THE JERUSALEM POST*).

The reserve general, who was minister of information in the mid-1970s, said that Syria realizes it is not yet strong enough to tackle the Israel Defence Forces alone.

Syria has eight armoured divisions while the newly published report says Israel can mobilize 11 armoured divisions. Israel has more infantry brigades than Syria and while both have as many tanks — 3,600 — Israel has 8,000 armoured personnel carriers and armoured reconnaissance vehicles compared with Syria's 2,700. Syria, however, has 2,300 guns and mortars compared with Israel's 1,000, the report says.

Syria has replaced the 90-odd aircraft it lost during the Lebanon war, but its inferiority in the air remains. Israel's success in wiping out the Syrian anti-aircraft missile batteries in Lebanon in three hours without losing a plane must have made it "patently evident to the Syrians that they cannot rely on their surface-to-air missile system for defence against Israeli aerial attack," the report adds.

To successfully wage war now Syria would require allies. But its potential partners — Libya for example — do not have a common border with Israel, Yariv noted.

However, Syria would not shirk a showdown if forced into one, Yariv added.

He reckoned the time is ripe for a tacit agreement over Lebanon.

The agreement should entail an Israeli withdrawal on condition the Syrians do not advance beyond their present lines and do their best to prevent terrorist attacks on the Galilee. Syrian achievements in Tripoli will probably put the Lebanese in a better position to control the terrorist organizations — and Damascus has already proven its effectiveness in preventing terrorist attacks across the Golan border, Yariv said.

Working out a tacit Israeli-Syrian arrangement will require a few months. Israel must use the time for talks with the Christians, Druze and Shi'ite Moslems to build a local infrastructure to prevent the PLO from returning to Southern Lebanon. Indicating he expected local cooperation, Yariv said, "It is in their interest, too."

Asked why Syria should be interested in an arrangement with Israel, Yariv said the IDF would pull back from its positions which are only 30 kilometres from Damascus. According to the report, Israel's present deployment forced Syria to send three divisions to protect the new flank.

Israel would also hold the May agreement with Lebanon in abeyance and tacitly recognize Syria's special position in Lebanon, Yariv said.

According to Yariv this was not a high price to pay. The May agreement is in any case in abeyance and Syria has proved its special standing.

However, Israel should not publicly drop the May agreement and should be ready for only tacit agreement with Damascus, Yariv said.

He recalled such an arrangement once existed. Several years ago Israel had warned Syria not to pass the (Al-Mishq) line. Syria sent a small unit beyond it "and we acted." Eventually a "red line" had been drawn.

Israel must be ready for a situation where there will be nothing in writing. "Maybe they won't even say we agree. When the message is passed the only reaction will be 'we heard'," he told military correspondents here.

Discussing the overall military balance in the Middle East, Yariv said enemy forces combined outnumber Israel by 2.5 or three to one. But the balance continues to favour Israel largely because of the deep split in the Arab world.

The split had been vividly demonstrated during the war in Lebanon. This proved no Arab state can expect to confront Israel successfully in the near future unless it successfully launches a surprise attack.

Israel can also count on the superior training of its men, their ability to get the most from each weapons system and do a better job than the enemy in integrating these systems in tactical operations.

But the enemy's weapons are improving — partly because Soviet arms are improving and partly because some Arab countries are now getting western arms, Yariv noted.

The 385-page book unveiled yesterday includes a survey of the major strategic developments in the Middle East during the past two years, an inventory of military forces from Morocco to Oman, and an analysis of military balances in various Middle Eastern conflicts.

UN Observers Report Normal Syrian Movements

TA080624 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 8 Nov 83

[Text] UN observers on the Golan Heights yesterday reported a completely normal movement of forces on the Syrian side of the border. Their reports establish that the cease-fire on the Golan Heights is being properly observed. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports from the north.

[Begin recording] The commanders of the UN Observers Force on the Golan did not conceal their surprise over the flow of telephone calls they received yesterday asking whether a war is going to break out between Syria and Israel. There is no sign of war, UNDOF officers answered, who then went off to a cocktail party in honor of the departure of a Norwegian officer.

The UN force on the Golan supervises a 7-km-wide buffer zone between Israeli and Syrian forces as well as a 25-km-wide limited forces zone.

A check of the limited forces zone is carried out once every 2 weeks and the last check was last Tuesday.

A Canadian officer characterized reports published yesterday that Syrian soldiers are clearing minefields on the Golan in order to pave the way for tanks as nonsense. Mines are always cleared in the buffer zone, the officer emphasized, and this work is carried out by UN soldiers in coordination with the Syrian Army.

However, it is important to note that it is difficult for the UN observers on the Golan to give timely warnings of sudden movements of forces. Their thorough checks are conducted once every 2 weeks. On the eve of the Peace for Galilee Operation, for instance, when Tiberias shook from the convoys of tanks on their way to the Golan, the observers continued to report that there was no concentration of forces on the Golan Heights.

The rumors and press headlines have their own dynamics, of course. Yesterday foreign television teams and journalists arrived in the north, looking for pictures of shelters on the eve of a war. Shim'on Sheves, the head of the Golan settlements committee, told me about calls he received from editorial staffs in the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Ireland, all asking whether they had already been evacuated. [end recording]

Knesset Committee Briefed on Tyre Explosion

TA071318 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1248 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Major General Ori Sagai, an IDF Operations Branch aide, today briefed the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on the terrorist act in Tyre and the security measures adopted in southern Lebanon following this act.

In the committee's discussion, Alignment MK Hayim Bar-Lev said it is impossible to seriously talk of totally liquidating terrorism. The more we avoid illusions, the better we will be able to calculate our moves and carry them out in a more efficient, more sober manner.

Likud MK Beni Shalita said: The most important lesson from the terrorist act is that more freedom of action regarding opening fire should be given, both in Lebanon and in Judaea and Samaria.

Alignment MK Yosi Sarid claimed that a grave case of negligence was manifest in Tyre and somebody should shoulder responsibility for this.

Likud MK Yosef Rom commented that the location of IDF camps in Lebanon should be reinvestigated. Our correspondent Sha'ul Stav reported these details on the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting.

Peres Addresses Knesset on Tyre Incident

TA071509 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1415 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Speech by Labor Party Chairman MK Shim'on Peres, immediately following an address by Defense Minister Prof Moshe Arens, on 7 November in the Knesset — live]

[Text] [picked up in midsentence] with the bereaved families, and with the young people in the hospitals combating their wounds — some of whom will have to contend with their wounds throughout their lives — with the Border Police personnel, with the members of Shin Bet — those unknown soldiers carrying out such a vital job toward guaranteeing Israel's security — with the IDF soldiers, and with the guards who shot at the van carrying the source of disaster to the threshold of our sons. This time the price paid by the Druze is also extremely heavy. Perhaps we, more than anyone else, can sympathize with the Druze, who have been plagued by the fate of a minority for nearly 1,000 years, since the Druze religion was first born on the slopes of Mt Hermon. Out of pride and grief, as well as out of realism, the Druze tried to live in peace in the changing circumstances. The price paid by the Druze who are citizens of Israel constitutes yet another link in the chain of wisdom and hatred of terrorism which characterizes all of Israel, all of its citizens belonging to all religious affiliations, and members of all the sects.

Knesset members, what typified the latest terrorist attack — like the attack on the Marines and the French Army soldiers — is yet another trick in the terrorist bag: suicidal terrorism. Before I say anything about this issue, I think we are all obligated to share, from this podium, in the grief of the U.S. families who lost hundreds of their sons, as well as the grief of the French families. Those who agree or disagree with the U.S. and French policies still know deep in their hearts that the United States and France can live without Lebanon; but peace, freedom, and security throughout the world cannot live without the involvement of the United States and the participation of the free world.

The U.S. and French sons fell in a mission that was not American, and not French, but in the course of a much broader mission. I would like to warn against one thing: against the thought that allegedly it is impossible to fight against suicidal terrorism. I say it is possible to fight against suicidal terrorism, by way of preemption, by taking security precautions on site, and by punishing the culprits.

This is not the first time that suicidal people have come to kill Jews, or threaten Jews, and each time we learned the lessons — whether it was in connection with the hijacking of aircraft, or in connection with the capture of hostages, children and adults alike — and we had the upper hand. This time, too, despite all the difficulties — and I am not trying to minimize the difficulties — we should not raise our hands in surrender. Even this fanatical degree of terrorism will be defeated by our own steadfastness. Terrorism, naturally, is a worldwide problem, and the war against terrorism must also be an international campaign. With all those who want to cooperate with us we must cooperate. Those who will cooperate with terrorists should be shot as responsible for the terrorism which jeopardizes the peace and well-being of citizens in many corners of the world.

We must also check at home and find out whether all the necessary security measures have been taken to prevent the latest incident. I would not like to jump to conclusions; we will wait for the conclusions of the military commission of inquiry, and only then will we be able to reach more comprehensive, full conclusions. But here, too, it is necessary to unhesitatingly investigate and find out whether this case involved negligence or tardiness in employing the necessary measures. I congratulate the defense minister for not rushing to reach conclusions before the findings of the actual investigation have been confirmed.

We are aware of the many changes that have been taking place in the terrorist alignment in the region. Right now 'Arafat is fighting for his life. He has no one else to blame but himself for bringing himself to the brink of such a risk in which he has been trapped. Instead of taking a political path to resolve the conflict between us, he became the archpatron of terrorism. Now he is combating antiterrorism against himself. Yet it is no secret that those who are conducting the terrorist campaign against the father of terrorism is Syria, under Al-Asad. Syria is trying to adopt the Palestinian problem, not to solve it, but to turn it into a Syrian tool in inter-Arab relations, and as a means to pressure Israel through indirect measures.

I believe I can presume to speak on behalf of the entire Knesset when I say that we are not seeking a confrontation with the Syrians. We are not warmongers, and we are not looking for additional clashes. On the contrary, if the Syrians had been ready to maintain a substantive, real dialogue, we would have marched forward to such a dialogue. However, the Syrians, too, must understand that a dialogue is a two-faceted process, and if they become the source of either geographical or political terrorism, they will have to bear the consequences for this.

I think we will all contribute and lend a hand to the war against terrorism, though not just against terrorism as a campaign in itself, but to shaping conditions that will limit the scope of terrorism and not create political conditions that will be conducive to terrorism. The nation should not reach decisions out of fear and intimidation, but it is likewise advised not to be scared of reaching decisions. I know people have been trying to spread rumors throughout the world alleging that we only adopt decito spread Each and every victim hurts, and every effort should be made so that we do not have further casualties, but at the same time we must think level-headedly and make up our minds regarding what we want in Lebanon. If it is correct that all the different components of the Knesset agree that the only single interest — unlike in the past — Israel has in Lebanon is maintaining the security of the northern part of Israel — and there are no auxiliary objectives of either wanting to arrange a new order or interfering in Lebanon's affairs, or playing the policeman of Lebanon — then we have a common denominator. If anyone looks beyond this, he will perpetuate the mistake we committed earlier. We do not want to remain on Lebanese soil. We do not want to face the Lebanese inhabitants. We do not want to have peace with only one faction, or sect, in Lebanon. We want to live in peace with all the sects — the Christians, the Shi'ites, the Sunnis, the Druze, and all the other minorities there. We are not interested in intervening in Lebanon or staying on Lebanese territory. We are, however, interested in living in peace with all the Lebanese — provided that no additional or renewed danger from Lebanon threatens Israel or its northern settlements.

In this respect, I certainly support objections to closing the Al-Awwali River bridges. We want the inhabitants of southern Lebanon to coexist with us out of an understanding for the sole motive directing our activities, that is, security. I would also like to add a word of praise for Major Haddad's units: A situation has been created in southern Lebanon in which there is greater Lebanese sovereignty and less inner fighting than in any other region in Lebanon. His forces include Christians, Druze, Shi'ites, and Sunnis. We would like all of Lebanon to be like southern Lebanon. However, it is certain that southern Lebanon depends on Maj Haddad's activities, on his policy, his approach, and the understanding that there is no conflict between the independence of Lebanon and Israel's security. In effect, even the Lebanese Government recognized this need when it signed the agreement between Lebanon and Israel. What I believe interests us in that accord is not the ceremonial part, in which there are a lot of hyperboles, but the security portion — Israel's right to insist that in southern Lebanon there be brigades that are interested in cooperating so that terrorism and the PLO do not return to southern Lebanon; and Israel's right to conduct aerial and naval patrols, have intelligence supervision, and be aware in time of imminent danger.

I was somewhat saddened that the members of the Lebanese Cabinet did not even find it necessary or proper to express sorrow over the victims that fell in Tyre, although I believe all of us in the Knesset share the grief of all those who died in this tragedy, regardless of their affiliation, as long as they are not among those who organized the terrorism itself.

It is necessary to adopt resolutions, and I would also like to say something in connection with the U.S. position on these decisions. We are aware of the fact that the United States has a global interest in the Middle East, just as it is in our interest to have security for Israel. If the Americans approach us with global demands [derishot] of their own, we will have to review them with consideration [be'ayin mithashevet]. I am not suggesting that we become global partners with the United States in their Middle East policy but, on the other hand, we have the full right to approach the United States on matters pertaining to Israel's security. Traditionally, our demands [derishot] of the United States have been in the realm of political aid, balance of arms, and financial aid — but we have never asked the Americans to defend us instead of using our own forces, or that U.S. soldiers participate in defending Israel. We have our own currency, and we have our own Armed Forces. We oppose the dollarization of the currency, and we object to the Americanization of our owndefense, although we think the United States fulfills a prime role here of whose significance we are aware.

Today is not a day for polemics or debating, and I would like to wind up my statement by saying that it is Israel's traditional policy to oppose terrorism and fight it.

On the other hand, our policy is not to transcend our defense requirements, but to bring to the nations of the region a message of peace even if they have no word of peace to utter, and tell the Lebanese inhabitants: we do not covet either your land or your territorial waters, or your affairs.

We want to cooperate with you so that we do not have to stay on your territory in order to guarantee security and peace in the northern part of Israel and for its citizens.

New Regulations for Al-Awwali Crossings Given

TA071855 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1845 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Excerpts] Southern Lebanon, 7 Nov (ITIM) — The Al-Awwali River bridges reopened this evening. The ITIM correspondent in the north reports that the order to reopen them was given by the commander of the Northern Command, who toured the area this morning. He reviewed the situation and, in coordination with various elements, decided that there is no other alternative but to reopen them. The IDF will begin extremely careful examinations along the crossing points, and the gates will occasionally be closed for a number of hours to allow for a reorganization of the security forces.

This evening the teams at the crossing points were reinforced to permit a more rapid flow of the hundreds of vehicles that have been waiting for the bridges to reopen for more than 3 days now. It looks like it will be possible to transfer goods to southern Lebanon over the Al-Awwali bridges, as in the past, but the truck drivers will have to unload the entire cargo and prove that they are not carrying explosive charges or material. Pedestrians will be allowed to cross the bridges after their personal belongings have been searched.

The IDF spokesman in Sidon clarified that the entry of vehicles over the bridges will be carried out in accordance with the IDF's security needs, and that "the passage of convoys with no adequate explanation will not be allowed. Anyone who wishes to cross the bridges will have to furnish an explanation as to what exactly he is seeking in southern Lebanon," he said.

It has also been learned that part of the recommendations reached by the commission of inquiry call for a clearly discernible identity tag on all civilian vehicles moving inside IDF-controlled areas. This mainly involves mobilized cars.

Today a firing incident occurred between the IDF and the terrorists in Lebanon. The outpost along the coast returned fire, and a search was conducted in the area. No one was hurt and no damage was caused.

Rosh Haniqra Border Crossing Point Reopens

TA071136 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] The border crossing at Rosh Haniqra reopened this morning. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar points out that this enabled many Lebanese citizens to return to their homes after they were forced to stay in Israel in the wake of the disaster in Tyre.

IDF Says Sidon Building Evacuation Temporary

TA080553 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 8 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that yesterday IDF officers met with Lebanese Government officials in southern Lebanon and made it clear to them that their evacuation from the Sidon military authorities building is a temporary arrangement for security reasons.

Strike in Southern Lebanon

TA080946 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0935 GMT 8 Nov 83

[Excerpt] There is a complete commercial strike in southern Lebanon. The strike is felt especially in Tyre, Sidon, and An-Nabatiyah. The residents explain that the reason for the strike is the closing of the Al-Awwali River bridges and the removal of the Lebanese Government offices from the Sidon military authorities building.

Residents set tires on fire near a number of Shi'ite villages in southern Lebanon, but the IDF has so far refrained from intervening in events.

At the moment, our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports, Lebanese civilian and vehicle traffic across the Al-Awwali bridges is brisk.

West Bank Expresses Support for 'Arafat

TA072108 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Mayors in the territories, including those dismissed from their posts, published this evening an announcement in support of Yasir 'Arafat. Similar announcements were also published by various bodies in the territories, including the Chamber of Commerce in Nabulus. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that in the universities in the territories meetings were held in support of 'Arafat.

Eagleburger Meets West Bank Officials

TA051930 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 5 Nov 83

[Text] Several figures from Judaea and Samaria met with U.S. Under Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, who is currently visiting Israel, in East Jerusalem today. Among the people with whom he met were Ilyas Frayj, the mayor of Bethlehem, and Mustafa 'Abd an-Nabi an-Natshah, the dismissed mayor of Hebron. They reported to Eagleburger about the situation of the Palestinians in the territories.

Kohen-Orgad's Economic Policies Outlined

TA041640 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 4 Nov 83 pp 1,2

[Report by economic affairs correspondent Tzvi Timor]

[Excerpts] "There will be no cutbacks in settlements; however, the standard of living in Israel will drop by 7 percent in the next year. Recession, unemployment, and inflation are expected to increase." This was said by the new Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad in a talk with our correspondent.

The minister will bring his plan to impose taxes on the public and to make budget cuts before the Ministerial Committee on Economic Affairs today for its approval.

The treasury plan includes the following points:

—Imposing a tax of up to 1,000 shekels a month on every family which has children in school.

—Raising the ceiling of fees related to the medical services, and imposing a fee for a visit to the doctor.

—Imposing a tax on the child allowance for the first two children.

—Increasing the income tax scales and adding a special tax scale of 70 percent.

—Increasing the price of electricity and water sharply, over and above the index increase.

—Increasing communications services prices by 50 percent.

—Imposing fees on children in boarding schools and day care centers.

—Decreasing the allocations for the local and municipal councils.

—Accelerating the devaluation of the shekel according to the price increases (about 50 percent in the next 3 months.

In a talk with our correspondent, Kohen-Orgad said that there will be no cut in the Lebanon war budget, since it is a matter of security. There will be no cut in the Lavi project, which is being viewed as a national project, and there will be no cut in the budget of the Mediterranean-Dead Sea canal, since the cuts in the Energy Ministry were agreed upon in August. There will also be no cut in the settlements budget. Kohen-Orgad said that he sees the settlements as a central and vital part of the security framework of Israel, and the investment needed for it is not high.

Cabinet Approves Measures

TA071658 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] The Cabinet has decided to impose an education levy and a health levy, to impose a tax on child allowances and early pensions, to double the travel tax, and to impose a 10-percent surcharge on the income tax of upper income brackets. The Cabinet also decided to propose a law to change the criteria for unemployment benefits.

Our correspondent Me'ir Einstein reports that the education levy will be 700 shekels a month for 10 months. The tax on child allowances will be imposed on those paying 50-percent income tax or more for a period of 15 months. The amount of the health levy has not yet been decided.

According to the proposed law for unemployment benefits, all 25-year-olds and older will have to accept any job offered to them, or they will not be entitled to unemployment benefits. Those looking for a job will also be required to travel up to 60 km from their homes to their work places, instead of the 40 km today.

The 10-percent surcharge imposed on those earning higher incomes will be imposed for 15 months and in fact raise their income tax to 66 percent.

The details of the decision to impose a tax on early pensions will be decided at the meeting of the Ministerial Committee on Economic Affairs. The finance minister will work to get the support of the Knesset Finance Committee for the decision to double the travel tax to $100.

The Cabinet also decided on some changes in the civil service. It was decided to cut 25 percent of the overtime hours of the civil servants, to cut the travel allowance by 15 percent, to reduce the governmental car pool by 10 percent, and to raise to 80 percent the interest paid by civil servants on loans they receive at their place of work.

Our correspondent goes on to add that according to Finance Ministry forecasts, the unemployed will increase by 10,000 people following those steps. At the moment, about 6,000 unemployed persons are registered at the labor exchange.

U.S. Actions in Grenada Linked to Lebanon

TA071035 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Nov 83 pp 3, 6

[Commentary by Errol Guiney: "Fear About An American Reaction Has Created A New Situation in the Middle East"]

[Text] The tragedy in Tyre and its reverberations, the persecution of 'Arafat in Tripoli and the approach of an immense U.S. armada, carrying a no less immense air force, to the Lebanese coast create a new situation in the Middle East. This situation entails many dangers but also some positive prospects.

Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger yesterday stated that the sailing of the large U.S. fleet to the eastern basin of the Mediterranean Sea was "routine." However, in the wake of the U.S. invasion of Grenada any U.S. sailing operation of such dimensions immediately gives rise to a feeling of uncertainty.

This feeling was enhanced in the wake of Secretary Weinberger's refusal to either confirm or deny reports that Washington is contemplating a "reprisal" for the massacre of the U.S. Marines in Beirut.

We had better understand now the significance of the U.S. invasion of Grenada. This was a relatively small operation but it caused strong reverberations in the Middle East and elsewhere in the world. In its wake, nobody can be certain as to how the United States will react and this is the best form of deterrence in the present cruel world.

The Syrians and their lackeys have so far relied too much on the "traditional inaction" of the Americans. They thought that America would not lift a finger, whatever the provocations. Now, Damascus and its puppets can no longer be sure that the Americans will really sit idly by. This may prevent a further deterioration of the situation in Lebanon and, at a later stage, even lay the foundations for a new balance of power in that country.

However, in order to create such a balance, the reactions of Israel — a U.S. ally in this region despite the many differences of opinion between the two countries — must be unpredictable. The Syrians have recently been convinced that Israel's problems are so serious and complex that it thought itself free to do whatever it pleases in Lebanon, believing that the Israelis would not react. In this respect, the Air Force strikes in the wake of the attack in Tyre signaled to Damascus that Israel has not yet abandoned the method of surprise strikes.

If Syria has to take into account the possibility of both Israel and U.S. air operations there is no doubt that President Hafiz al-Asad will have to reconsider. Al-Asad apparently is a ruthless man but he reputedly is a cautious statesman. He knows how far he can go without risking everything he has achieved so far. In light of the fact that the Soviet leader, Yuriy Andropov, is apparently ill Hafiz al-Asad also cannot be absolutely certain that the Soviets would immediately rush to help him if he were in distress.

In other words, this is the first time that U.S. Administration spokesmen have not denounced the murderous attack in Tyre and the Israeli Air Force strikes along with the traditional expression of "sorrow over any act of hostility" in the region.

This does not mean that the Americans are really interested in a renewed and broad range of acts of hostility in the Middle East. They are also not convinced that Israel is ready for such a war. However, with a rival like Hafiz al-Asad, the only course of action to prevent absolute Syrian domination over Lebanon is to persuade the Syrian president that both Israel and the United States would be ready to assume the risks and actually intervene in the field.

The way Hafiz al-Asad is dealing with terrorist leader Yasir 'Arafat without, among other things, considering the serious impact on the civilian population further shows that with a rival such as the Syrian president, a tough and ruthless man, one should behave according to tough rules.

As for the expected disposal of Yasir 'Arafat in the not so distant future, this development entails both negative and positive implications for Israel. The hardliners, who are not ready for any political compromises and solutions and who only believe in a military solution to the conflict with Israel, may gain the upper hand. The Syrians will use these men who, along with the Iranian and Shi'ite terrorists, might turn out to be extremely dangerous terrorists.

On the other hand, a Palestinian movement currently serving the interests of "greater Syria" would lose its prestige and credibility in the world.

ALGERIA

Mitterrand Interviewed on Relations With Algeria

LD071158 Algiers APS in English 1017 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Paris, 07/11/83 (APS) — On the eve of the official visit that President Chadli Bendjedid is to pay from today to France, the French president, Mr Francois Mitterrand made a joint interview to the Algerian News Agency (APS) and the Algerian Broadcasting (RTA).

To a question relating to the situation of the Algerian community in France, and the measures to be taken as to the improvement of the security and the safeguard of the dignity of our emigrant community, President Francois Mitterrand answered that some changes took place two years ago, and that many situations was redressed since then.

Examining the situation of the cooperation which implies a globality taking into account at the same time immediate and long term interests, the French head of state declared that no diplomatic, commercial, and cultural accord could have a signification if it is limited to the consideration of the advantages and drawbacks of particular contracts, mainly in the frame of relations between Algeria and France which are registered in a long history.

And it is as to a certain idea of relations through the coming half century that they have engaged contracts which are, to bring to one side and the other, i.e., Algeria and France, just satisfactions.

Dealing with relations between states, a question about the North-South dialogue which has raised many hopes in the Third World, was examined.

President Mitterrand stated that it is necessary to seriously examine the problem of guarantees of raw materials prices in developing countries, that one has to reform the International Monetary Fund, to give other missions to the World Bank and particularly to define the mission which should be granted to it for energetic resources besides oil, as to the elimentary self-reliance everywhere it is possible.

Because, it is from developments in countries which needs it that the world called the developed world will overcome its own crisis, a crisis in which it entrails, in very dramatic conditions, Third World countries.

President Sends Message to Syria's Al-Asad

LD072241 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] The great majority of the Arab world is making last-ditch efforts to put an end to the fighting [in northern Lebanon], whose toll is estimated at approximately 250 dead and 400 injured.

To this end President Chadli Bendjedid has dispatched Mr Boualem Bessaiah from Paris to Damascus; the minister of information is carrying a message from the head of state to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

DFLP's Hawatimah Denounces Fatah Dissidents

LD072249 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] [First announcer] You have just returned from the (?Al-Mugar) Hall in Algiers where Mr Nayif Hawatimah, the DFLP leader, held a meeting at 1800 hours?

[Second announcer] Indeed, as we speak, Nayif Hawatimah is continuing his meeting at the (?Al-Mugar) Hall, but the DFLP leader received us and was willing in particular to answer two of our questions: The first one obviously concerns the fighting around Al-Baddawi, where the loyalist forces are surrounded. According to Nayif Nawatimah this represents one stage among others in an imperialist-Zionist and reactionary conspiracy, a conspiracy aimed at seeing the PLO seized. As to whether there was still a chance the Palestinians at Al-Baddawi will be spared — well, Nayif Hawatimah showed optimism this evening in spite of everything. His reply was: In the past, the PLO has come out of far more serious crises than this one. Finally, he gave a clarification of the reasons given by the Fatah dissidents. Nayif Hawatimah asked them one question this evening: If we fight among ourselves, with whom will you undertake (?reforms)?

LIBYA

Syria To Be Defended if 'Exposed to Aggression'

LD072308 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] JANA has learned that the leader of the revolution is to send letters to the UN secretary general, the president of the UN Security Council, the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, the OAU chairman, and the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives concerning the grave situation that has arisen as result of massing of the U.S. fleet and the NATO forces in the (?vincinity) of the Lebanese and Syrian coast. This matter threatens the whole Arab area, is causing the eruption of the situation in it, and endangering world peace, consequently pushing the world toward a third world war.

The People's Foreign Liaison Bureau has affirmed Libya's stand with all its capabilities alongside Syria if it becomes exposed to aggression by the United States and its allies and is forced to enter into a confrontation in defense of its freedom. In this regard the People's Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau issued a statement this evening expressing the Jamahiriyah's concern at the movement of the U.S. fleet and forces and the forces of the NATO alliance against Syria. Here is the text of the statement:

The Jamahiriyah is following with great concern the movements of the U.S. fleet and forces and those of the NATO forces in relation to Syria, a matter which presages that the U.S. Administration and its allies are contemplating carrying out an aggressive action against the fraternal Syrian people and its revolutionary leadership. Drawing attention to this danger, the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau would like to stress the following:

1. Libya will stand with all its capabilities alongside Syria if it becomes exposed to aggression by the United States and its allies and is compelled to enter into a confrontation in defense of its freedom and the security of its territory.

2. Libya appeals to the fraternal Arab states to stand alongside Syria militarily and with all other means in support of its steadfastness in defending Arab honor. It also calls on the international community to denounce the U.S. muscle flexing and its dragging the NATO alliance forces down a grave slippery path which could in the end lead to a confrontation with the Arab nation from the ocean to the Gulf.

3. The Jamahiriyyah draws attention to the dangers that will befall the states of the NATO alliance and their interests in the Arab homeland from the ocean to the Gulf if they participate in or bless any U.S. aggression or threat against the Syrian people. Libya also appeals to the U.S. partners in the NATO alliance to utilize their partnership with the United States to dissuade it from any aggression against Syria and to compell it to withdraw its fleet and forces away from a confrontation with Syria and [two words indistinct] pan-Arab in the area. Four — Libya draws the American people's attention to the dangers of the policy of Reagan [two words indistinct] which is trying to drag the world to brink of the abyss. It appeals to the American people and their living conscience to (?speed up) the overthrow of the Reagan administration. [passage indistinct]

MOROCCO

King Hassan Greets Andropov on Anniversary
LD071348 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II has sent a cable of congratulations to His Excellency Yuriy Andropov, president of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee on the anniversary of the founding of the USSR.

State Secretary Receives USSR Ambassador
LD081129 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Nov 83

[Text] Rabat, 8 Nov (MAP) — The Moroccan secretary of state for foreign affairs, Abdelhaq Tazi, this morning received USSR Ambassador to Morocco Yevgeniy Nersesvov. Discussions covered relations between the two countries and the situation in the Middle East in general, and in Lebanon in particular. The ambassador delivered to the Moroccan minister of state the text of the TASS statement on the situation in Lebanon.

AL-'ALAM Criticizes Grenada Invasion
PM071421 Rabat AL-'ALAM in Arabic 29 Oct 83 p 2

[M.Y. article: "Spotlight"]

[Text] The U.S. invasion of Grenada has exposed the U.S. Administration's self-contradiction, reflected in its condemnation of certain methods when used by others and its unhesitating application of those methods whenever it deems such a step necessary. Who, after today, can applaud President Reagan's fiery statements about the continued Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, for example? Is the U.S. Administration's defense of Afghanistan based on principles or is it just one way of attacking the Soviet Union? Whatever President Reagan's justifications are for invading a country whose Armed Forces are no more numerous than the sentries guarding the White House, its residents, and its employees, it is quite clear that the United States arrogates to itself the right to handle the affairs of its neighbors in the American Continent in accordance with the dictates of U.S. interests. This, however, does not prevent it from condemning every similar Soviet intervention near the Soviet borders.

Another contradiction is that the United States uses force "to defend the democracy threatened by leftist thugs in Grenada" and at the same time supports all the corrupt South American and Central American regimes which are violating the simplest democratic rights and oppressing their peoples by force of arms. Despite the protests raised here and there and despite the desperate violence, the U.S. Administration has turned a deaf ear to everything except Walesa, his friends, and some Soviet dissidents. This two-faced approach is the cause of the present deteriorating situation in the Arab East. The United States has chosen Israel as its ally, friend, protectorate, and protector of U.S. interests. In doing so it has given Israel prior permission to wreak havoc in the area as it pleases. It is no wonder, therefore, that the U.S. plans for the region have been received coolly even by the friends of the United States. The reason is the loss of credibility.

Moroccan Official Praises Relations with PRC
LD041729 Rabat MAP in English 1218 GMT 4 Nov 83

[Text] Rabat, Nov 4 (MAP) — "Relations between Morocco and the People's Republic of China have never known any contentious [as received] as they are based on friendship, constructive dialogue, cooperation and solidarity," said Mr Abdelhaq Tazi, Moroccan secretary of state for foreign affairs. Addressing a dinner hosted recentely by the charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Rabat on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, Mr Tazi said that "since 1958, huge progress was achieved and materialized by the conclusion and implementatior of several agreements in the areas of commerce, economy, health, sports and agriculture." Regarding the two countries' foreign policy, the secretary of state underscored the convergence of viewpoints on several issues, namely the Palestinian issue, the Afghan problem, the situation in Kampuchea and in Africa as well as South-South dialogue.

Delegation 'Thwarts' UN Draft Resolution on Sahara
LD041553 Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT 4 Nov 83

[Text] New York, Nov 4 (MAP) — The Moroccan delegation to the 38th ordinary session of the United Nations General Assembly has thwarted a new maneuver engineered by the adversaries of Morocco's territorial integrity in the corridors of the Decolonization Commission. A draft resolution laying the stress on "direct negotions" between Morocco and the so-called Polisario (scores of mercenaries recruited from abroad to combat Morocco for the control of the former Spanish Sahara recovered by Morocco in 1975) was to be circulated among delegations at the meeting. The Moroccan delegation led by Mr M'Hamed Boucetta, minister of state for foreign affairs, reacted to this draft resolution and denounced its unavowed objective, that of diverting attention from the basic issue of the referendum (in the Sahara to determine the Moroccanity of the Saharan population).

Thus, the authors of the draft resolution could do nothing but refrain from such a move as a new document bearing the essence of the decisions of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) regarding this issue was being prepared. On the other hand, the UN Fourth Commission (known as Decolonization Committee) was to carry on its debate on the Sahara issue on Thursday under the chairmanship of the Libyan permanent representative to the UN, Mr 'Ali at-Turayki. On Wednesday, at the opening session, several leaders of liberation movements representing the Saharan population took the floor to unveil the real nature of the so-called "Polisario" and to underscore the Moroccanity of the recovered Saharan provinces. They also urged for the organizing of the referendum that was proposed by King Hassan II of Morocco during the 18th OAU summit that was held in Nairobi.

Communique Published on Meeting With IMF

LD052203 Rabat MAP in English 1203 GMT 5 Nov 83

[Text] Casablanca, Nov 5 (MAP) — Mr Abdellatif Jouahri, Moroccan minister of finance returned home on Friday from Paris where he had met with representatives of Morocco's main creditor countries under the aegis of the International Monetary Fund. Following is the final communique that was released at the end of this meeting:

"At the request of the Kingdom of Morocco, the International Monetary Fund organized a meeting to coordinate balance of payments assistance to Morocco for the years 1983 and 1984. The meeting, which followed an earlier informal meeting held in Washington on September 28, was held on November 3, 1983 at the Fund's office in Paris. The delegation from Morocco was headed by the minister of finance, Abdellatif Jouahiri.

"Representatives of 13 countries and institutions attended the meeting: Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

"The meeting reviewed the adjustment efforts undertaken by Morocco in the context of its stabilization program under the present stand-by arrangement with the Fund. The meeting also discussed medium-term prospects and policies of Morocco. The representatives of participating countries and institutions were supportive of these measures and noted that adjustment efforts would need to be further strengthened when policies for 1984 are finalized by the government. They also noted that, with appropriate adjustment policies, Morocco's external payments situation could reach a sustainable position before the end of the 1980's. They emphasized that Morocco must develop and implement a relevant medium-term strategy to achieve this end.

"The representatives of the International Monetary Fund provided estimates of the balance of payments for 1983 and 1984 and the remaining financing gap for those two years, after taking into account possible debt relief from official creditors and commercial banks. It may be recalled that the Paris Club met last week and agreed to reschedule Morocco's debt vis-a-vis official creditor countries for the years 1983-1985. The Moroccan representatives requested that the participating countries and institutions make contributions toward its fulfillment. Participants responded favorably to this request. Firm pledges and positive indications were given for a total contribution of about SDR 500 million. Participants agreed to continue their consultations in order to support fully the implementation of Morocco's adjustment program. It was also agreed that the World Bank will organize a consultative group for Morocco, to meet late in 1984, to review progress in the preparation and implementation of additional structural adjustment measures by Morocco."

MAP Reviews King Hassan II Visit to Europe

LD071335 Rabat MAP in English 1215 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Rabat, Nov 7 (MAP) — King Hassan II of Morocco returned back on Saturday afternoon coming from Paris where the sovereign was on a private visit since last October 10th. During his stay in France, King Hassan had met twice with President Francois Mitterrand of France. On October 18 and 19, the sovereign visited Belgium for talks with senior officials of the European Economic Community (EEC) mainly Gaston Thorn and Edgar Pisani, respectively president of the Commission of the European Communities and commissioner in charge of development. This visit which highlighted by a meeting with King Baudouin of Belgium was also marked by the sovereign's press conference in which he mainly dwelt on relations between Morocco and the EEC.

On October 23 and 29, King Hassan II received in his royal residence in Betz (Paris outskirts) the United Arab Emirates' Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources Mani ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah who conveyed to the monarch messages from the president of the UAE, Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, who is currently undertaking a mediation between Morocco and Algeria.

On November 1, King Hassan II presided over the ceremony commemorating the 28th anniversary of the sojourn in Saint Germain en Laye of the late King Muhammad V on his way back from his forced exile in Antisirabe (Madagascar) on 1 November 1955. This ceremony was attended by several French and Moroccan personalities, notably Mr Edgar Faure, then president [words indistinct]. At the end of his visit to France, King Hassan II sent a cable of thanks to President Mitterrand in which he mainly said, "The talks we had were useful and would undoubtedly open new perspectives for a deeper cooperation between our two countries. The identity of our analyses and our viewpoints on several issues that concern the world at this crucial moment constitute for us an additional reason to feel that our peoples are close to each other." Prior to his visit to France, the sovereign had visited New York where he had addressed the United Nations General Assembly.

During his stay in France, King Hassan II was accompanied by Prince Moulay Abdallah, the king's adviser Ahmed Reda Guedira, [spelling as received], the Minister of State Moualy Ahmed Alaoui, the Minister of the Interior Driss Basri, and the Minister of the Royal Household, Protocol, and Chancellery Moulay Abdelhafid Alaoui.

KUNA Analyst Comments on King Hassan's Speech

LD080731 Kuwait KUNA in English 1834 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Hassan-Committee (political analysis) by Atef Odeh — KUNA headline]

[Text]Rabat, Nov 7(KUNA) — Political observers here followed up with concern the speech made by Moroccan King Hassan II on the Middle East crisis in which he declared that he would not be able in future to speak on behalf of the Arabs regarding that issue. King Hassan is the head of the seven-men committee which emanated from the Fes summit conference and was assigned to convey to the five permanent member states of the U.N. Security Council, the Arab peace plan adopted by that summit conference. King Hassan led the committee's delegation to Washington where he held talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan and other American officials. The committee groups Jordan, Syria, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, and the PLO. All attempts aimed at holding a meeting for that committee to assess the results of its work had failed. The latest such effort was the call to convene at New York during the U.N. General assembly's 38th session but this was blocked by Syrian argument that there is no need for such a session.

Syria also boycotted the Jerusalem committee meetings which King Hassan is also heading. The fresh declaration of King Hassan as "a dark tunnel without an opening or an end." Saudi Arabia and Morocco tried to bridge the gap between the Reagan peace plan and the Arab peace initiative but failed due to the U.S. insistence that Jordan should be directly responsible for peace negotiations and to exclude the PLO. The Fes peace plan envisaged an independent Palestinian state while the Reagan plan calls for a Palestinian self-government linked with Jordan. Political observers believe that the declaration of King Hassan means a practical end for the seven-man committee, particularly after the serious developments in Tripoli. The observers fear that the collapse of the committee would be the onset of a series of retreats that might damage the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, a status endorsed at the 1974 Arab summit.

SUDAN

Numayri Congratulates Andropov on Anniversary

JN071816 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Nov (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has sent a cable of congratulations to Yuriy Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, on the Soviet National Day.

Numayri Receives U.S. Ambassador 7 Nov

JN071445 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Nov (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri received here this morning U.S. Ambassador to Sudan Alexander Hume Horan, who delivered to the president a message from U.S. President Ronald Reagan on bilateral relations. During the meeting, Numayri reviewed with the U.S. ambassador the various issues and situations in both the Arab and African regions as well as in the international arena.

Numayri Receives Message From King Fahd

JN071600 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1505 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Nov (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri received in Khartoum at 1000 today Saudi Charge d'Affaires Shaykh Mubarak ibn Thabit who conveyed a message from Saudi monarch King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz dealing with bilateral relations, international and Arab developments, and the Middle East situation, particularly the Lebanese crisis. The letter also dealt with certain issues of joint interest within the continuous consultations between President Numayri and King Fahd.

Numayri Addresses People's Assembly Session

JN071213 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Nov (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri this morning addressed the opening session of the third term of the Fifth People's Assembly. Addressing the Assembly members, Numayri said: The convening of your Assembly takes place at a time when Sudan has acheived great victory in the international arena — the election of your speaker as speaker of the IPU. This is a victory for Sudan's foreign policy. He added: Let the term of Sudan's chairmanship of the IPU be full of ahievements.

Numayri Leaves for Rome, France, U.S. 8 Nov

JN071825 Khartoum SUNA in English 1735 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Khartoum Nov. 7 (SUNA) — President of the republic Ja'far Muhammad Numayri and his accompanying delegation will leave here tomorrow for Rome, on an official five-day visit to Italy where he will address the conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in its 22d session scheduled for current November. During the visit, President Numayri will meet with the Italian president, prime minister, and ministers of defence, foreign affairs, and the economic cooperation minister. He will also meet with Pope John Paul in the Vatican and will pay visit to the headquarters of the Italian Snam Progetti Company which will undertake the implemention of export oil-pipeline in Sudan. Following his visit to Italy President Numayri will fly to France on an official visit where he will meet with French President Francois Mitterrand. A special programme will be made for President Numayri in his capacity as minister of defence. At the end of his visit President Numayri will pay an official working-visit to the U.S. in response to an invitation extended by the U.S. President Ronald Reagan. During the visit, President Numayri will meet in the White House with the U.S. President Reagan. An official declaration on President Numayri's visit to the U.S. issued in each of Khartoum and Washington today.

SUNA Interviews Egyptian Minister Butrus Ghali

JN041048 Khartoum SUNA in English 1745 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Text] Khartoum, Nov 3 (SUNA) — Egyptian State Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali said that the 5th African foreign ministers who are currently meeting in Khartoum were linked by a net of joint cooperation in various political cultural, technical, and economic fields and they were gathered in a multi-principled [words indistinct] being included in the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Charter. In a press interview by SUNA Butrus said that those countries had the desire to promote and boost their relations with each other. On the possibility of the (?joining) of the Khartoum meetings members to the integration charter between Egypt and Sudan, Ghali said that the integration charter between Sudan and Egypt was a leading experiment and we have to exert great efforts to pave the way for its success before opening the door for other countries toi join it which would be later on. On the Lebanese reconciliation, Ghali affirmed Egypt's support for the Lebanese national reconciliation.

On the relaxation of relations between Egypt and Israel, Butrus said that Israel by its behaviour and its negligence to the soul of the peace treaty was responsible for the status of (cool peace) between the two countries because the philosophy of the peace treaty was based on deserting the policy of using power as a means for achieving political ends, and it is also based on pursuing the Palestinians to join the peace operation by establishing [words indistinct] bridges by which they could pass from the military confrontation to the diplomatic confrontation but what Israel had done in the occupied Arab lands and Lebanon were against all these principles.

On the possibility that Egypt could make dialogue with the Syrian regime Dr Butrus Ghali said Egypt has been faithfully working for the national issues particularly the Palestinian cause, Golan Heights and the Lebanese issue and we would welcome any dialogue with any Arab country but it should be far from any fruitless slogans. On the failure of the Organization of Africa Unity (OAU) in achieving any success in a number of issues present before it, Butrus said that the reason behind the failure was mainly because of the foreign intervention, the separation of the African states into two groups making the issue of the Western Sahara Republic's membership as a core of disputes among them. On the next Arab summit conference scheduled to be held in Riyadh, Ghali said that Egypt did not want the issue of the restoration of Egypt to the Arab ranks to be a new element of the Arab dispute and efforts must be exerted for the urged national issues. At the end of his statement to SUNA Butrus said that it should be clear that when Egypt did not put any terms to its restoration to the joint Arab work has expected in the same time from the others to not put any terms for its restoration.

TUNISIA

More on Mitterand Speech to Tunisian Deputies

PM071516 Tunis L'ACTION in French 29 Oct 83 pp 5, 9

["Text" of speech by French President Francois Mitterrand to the Tunisian Chamber of Deputies on 28 October]

[Excerpt] I would like to extend the circle and talk about problems which are still very close to you and which affect the life of the Near East and, going even further, the Middle East. I have talked about the Palestinian problem. I have already said enough about it not to need to repeat myself. France's position is clear. We recognize that each real people — and they are a real people, with roots in history and a frequently remarkable degree of accomplishment and civilization — each people has their land and their homeland. You know what the problem is: On the same land, the same homeland, there are two peoples, two histories, and two religions. Thus all those different peoples' aspirations conflict, clash, and tear at each other. The United Nations gave its answer tothis apparently insoluble problem a long time ago, following World War II. The wisest thing is to conform to that thinking on the part of responsible countries which recognized Israel's right to exist in conditions of defined security but also the Palestinians' right, through famous resolutions. Let us ensure that mere antagonism does not remain permanent conflict. This is an extraordinarily difficult task which must not be abandoned. It is natural that you should have spoken to me about it. I am not one of those who give up halfway. We must, therefore, constantly repeat what has to be said so that awareness remains aroused. Mutual respect and recognition would have been the best solutions and would have required great intellectual and political courage on both sides — an excessive amount of bravery and personal courage has been squandered in this tragic affair. What has sometimes been lacking has been simple mental courage, which prepares for the return to peace by recognizing the other's existence and then his right.

Well, we must help in our way to ensure that nobody forgets that rights have been violated and that if the rights of those who are suffering injustice are restored, it should not be done at the price of a new injustice.

France is unwillingly involved in some of the conflicts in that region. Let me make things clear: As I have already had occasion to say, in the Iraq-Iran conflict France has friends, it does not have enemies. If it is necessary to draw a distinction according to the criterion of arms supplied, could it be said that it is the friends of each camp which are supplying each camp with arms? That would be the major friends of peace and harmony in the Middle East. [sentence as published] That would be derisory.

We have a certain concept of balance in the world and consequently of every hotbed of tension in which vital interests clash, there as elsewhere. We think it is necessary that Iraq not collapse, that the whole stability of the Near and Middle East depends on that. We do not think that that necessary protection should be accompanied by humiliation or defeat of the other side involved, to which I say, as it must constantly be told, even when it refuses to listen, that France knows that, in human history, Iran represents a great period, great periods, a historical continuity for which we have admiration and respect, but this does not alter the fact that there is a war and that, if that war continues, it can only increase the damage, despair, and finally the weakening of both, and that is what France cannot accept.

In Lebanon a legitimate, recognized government supported by a parliament, with a president elected in legitimate constitutional conditions, appealed to France, because of very long-standing traditions, cultural identity, and shared actions, and not just because it is France, to help preserve and safeguard, although these two verbs are no longer appropriate, to restore independence, sovereignty, and unity. Is it possible to refuse without failing in the fundamental duties which make a people's greatness? In this case I am talking of the French people's greatness and France's reputation. But it is quite simple; as soon as the international institution — I am thinking in particular of the United Nations — proves capable, as I pray it will, of ensuring the restoration in Lebanon of law and of concord and harmony, in its own way, by the diplomatic means it has, I can tell you without hesitation: France will ask for nothing more than that, indeed, it is praying for that moment, which has been too long in coming. It has no particular design, no territorial design, no direct or indirect political design, it intends to save men. Those who were saved first were the Palestinians who were crushed under bombs in West Beirut and whose departure was organized with dignity and the saving of lives.

We are prepared to fulfill that role with regard to anybody over there who is threatened in the area where we are and within the framework of the agreements which bind us and of the legitimate government's authority. That is easy to say, it is more difficult to do. As soon as we are sure that the law is defined by the body which can express it — the highest international body — France will not remain another hour. We will do that as soon as the law has been, not fixed, because it is that already, but accepted as a line of conduct for daily action.

The same is true in Chad: Let the foreign armies leave that country immediately, ladies and gentlemen. That may sound strange coming from the head of a state which has part of its Army on that territory, but I say, let the foreign armies leave that territory immediately, as foreign armies everywhere which are violating the right of peoples to determine their own future must withdraw. However, let us draw a distinction between a foreign army which has come at the legitimate government's request and one which has come of its own volition — a distinction between an army which is seeking to conquer and one which is seeking to defend. But let us not complicate matters or offend anybody — I say that as soon as the signal is given to all, France will respond within the hour.

Foreign Minister Contacts Arab Officials on Lebanon

LD051944 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Nov 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi undertook intensive activity this morning in implementing President Habib Bourguiba's instructions and considering the ordeals through which the Arab cause and the Palestinian revolution are passing. He spoke on telephone with his Algerian counterpart, Ahmed Talib Ibrahimi. The conversation dealt in particular with recent developments in the situation in Lebanon. The same issue was raised during a telephone conversation Beji Caid es-Sebsi had with the Saudi Arabian ambassador in Tunis, Abdelrahman al-'Umran. The minister of foreign affairs received Kuwaiti Ambassador Mizran Ahmad al-Hamad in his office, with whom he raised the negative repercussions of the Lebanese events on the Arab cause and particularly on the Palestinian revolution. It is worth noting that President Habib Bourguiba yesterday urged all Arab brothers to move with all firmness to stop the bloodshed in Lebanon which weakens the Palestinians and seriously impairs Arab credibility.

GHANA

Rawlings Meets With Sankara at Navrongo

AB072130 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] The chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, and the chairman of the National Council of the Revolution of Upper Volta, Captain Thomas Sankara, today met at Navrongo, the area where troops from both countries began joint military maneuvers last Friday. They held talks on matters of mutual interest and reviewed the progress of the military exercise currently taking place in the area. The PNDC chairman was accompanied by the special adviser, Captain Kojo Tsikata, the force commander, Major General Arnold Quainoo, and the 2d Infantry Brigade commander, Colonel Seidu Ayomah, while the Upper Voltan leader was accompanied by Major Jean-Baptiste Lingani, minister of defense and chief of staff of Upper Volta military forces, and Capt Blaise Compaore, minister without portfolio and commandant of the Po military base.

Reactivation of Joint Projects With Soviets Urged

AB071035 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] The chairman of the board of public tribunals, Mr George Adikum, has urged the government to consider reactivating more abandoned Ghanaian-Soviet joint projects for Ghana's economic reconstruction. He said immediate steps should be taken to complete the Tarkwa gold refinery to enable Ghana to refine her gold. Mr Adikum was speaking at a ceremony in Accra to mark the 66th anniversary of the Great October Revolution of the Soviet Union. He noted that the achievements of the Soviet Union are based on hard work. If, therefore, the 31 December revolution, which is parallel to the Soviet one, is to succeed, then Ghanaians have to translate political programs into hard work to ensure a self-reliant economy, social equality, and justice based on solid moral foundations. Mr Adikum appealed to the Soviet Union to increase her aid to Ghana to make the country's revolution succeed. He commended the spirit of patriotism displayed by the Soviet-trained Ghanaian personnel who have not left the country for, as he put it, greener pastures elsewhere. The deputy secretary for works and housing, Mr Steve Akuffo, asked Ghanaians to critically study the level of development of the Soviet people and work harder toward those levels. [as heard] He announced that two agreements have already been signed for the reactivation of the prefabricated concrete factory, one of the Ghana-Soviet joint projects. A Soviet delegation is due in Ghana soon to finalize arrangements for the project. The third secretary at the Soviet Embassy in Accra, Mr Herchenko Vlahim, emphasized that peace is vital for development in every country. He said if other world powers emulate the peace efforts of the Soviet Union, the risk of war will be eliminated. The general secretary of the Ghana-Soviet Friendship Society, Mr Ofori Ababio, called on all peace-loving nations to heed the Soviet call to curb the arms race. He was happy at the excellent relations between Ghana and the Soviet Union. He hoped they would be further strengthened.

MALI

Beye on Agreements With Guinea-Bissau, Senegal

AB071040 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 6 Nov 83

[Text] The head of state returned to Bamako yesterday at the end of a tour which led him to Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, and Mauritania. General Moussa Traore was on his first official visit to Guinea-Bissau and had working and friendly visits in Senegal and Mauritania. On his return, the president expressed satisfaction over the visit and told the press that the objectives of his subregional tour were fully realized. The 3-day official visit to Guinea-Bissau ended with the signing of three important documents: a treaty of friendship and cooperation, a draft agreement on the establishment of a Mali-Guinea Bissau joint commission, and a joint communique. Alioune Blondin Beye, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, explained the treaty of friendship and cooperation to Jonas Djogo.

[Begin recording] [Beye] Regarding the treaty of friendship and cooperation, I understand why it caught your attention since it is an unusual document. But you witnessed it for yourselves, the heads of state repeated it on several occasions, and the populations demonstrated it. These two peoples, who were linked by historical ties, had only been temporarily separated by colonization; therefore, this was a sort of reunion that was marked by political goodwill, and that is why the document called a treaty was signed. I must admit that in legal terms it is superior to a cooperation agreement that was also signed by the two foreign affairs ministers outlining the guidelines for the functioning of the joint commission; However, the principle of the creation of a joint commission was also contained in the treaty.

But there is something much more important than just the form. There is the fact, which I can reveal to you, that the treaty of friendship was negotiated and concluded for an indefinite period with, as is obviously always the case, the possibility for the two parties to annul it by giving 6-months notice. But I know that because of the historical past of the two peoples and because they have options which are quite similar, there are slim chances that this may occur. The treaty of friendship therefore meticulously regulates all relations in the economic, political, social, cultural, and trade sectors and this treaty is also a basis for several other agreements. An agreement has already been signed by the two foreign affairs ministers and others will follow.

[Djogo] You have held talks in Dakar with your counterpart Moustapha Niasse, Senegalese minister of foreign affairs. What topics were at the center of your discussions?

[Beye] In fact, after the private talks between the two heads of state in the morning, we were given instructions to hold a meeting in the afternoon to discuss political and cooperation issues. You know that my colleague Moustapha Niasse is the political secretary of the ruling Senegalese Socialist Party [PS], and in this regard, my elder brother, the Malian party's external relations secretary, was also present and the talks were on the relations between the two parties and on constructive political relations which, as you can see, are excellent. You know that the political secretary of the Democratic Union of Malian People [UDPM] visited Senegal and this visit will soon be reciprocated. The political secretary will also attend the forthcoming important international meeting which is a colloquium organized by the PS at which the friendly and brotherly party, the UDPM, has been invited and which will take place in December under the chairmanship of the president of the Republic of Senegal who is also secretary general of the PS.

We also discussed cooperation. Yesterday you heard the head of state say at the airport that the bilateral relations between Mali and Senegal are excellent, and this is not just protocol, it is a fact. But obviously we have to look to the future and already we are proud of the direct telephone link between Bamako and Dakar; however, this is not enough. The heads of state strongly stressed that we have to intensify our communication links especially in aviation. The two ministers will discuss this issue in detail during the holding of the joint commission which takes place in January in Bamako. We will also discuss issues related to (?sports) and difficulties faced by Malian economic operators and rail links [words indistinct]. [end recording]

NIGERIA

Paper Urges Review of Foreign Policy Objectives

AB071435 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The *NEW NIGERIAN*, in its editorial, opens a debate on what pattern our foreign policy objectives should take. The paper, after examining the dynamic method which calls for a tougher approach to the evolutionary pattern which provides for a less involved distant intra-African conflict, comes to the conclusion that a rethink of our foreign policy objective to cope with African problems is necessary. The *NEW NIGERIAN* proposes that Nigeria should concentrate her diplomatic efforts in areas where they are likely to yield positive results and cultivate friendly but respectable relationships with neighboring countries. The paper also suggests that the institutional framework for decision-making on foreign relations should be reviewed.

UPPER VOLTA

Sankara Sends USSR Anniversary Message

AB071430 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Message from head of state Thomas Sankara to Yuriy Andropov, chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet -- date not given]

[Text] The anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution affords us the pleasant opportunity to send you very sincere and warm congratulations on behalf of the revolutionary people of Upper Volta, their National Council of the Revolution [CNR], and their government as well as in my own name. The victory of the October revolution triggered the collapse of the world capitalist and imperialist system — the main obstacle to human progress — and opened for people an era of great victories against exploitation and domination. I greatly rejoice over the 66th anniversary of this historic event and hope that the excellent relations uniting our two revolutionary peoples will be strengthened. I pray you to accept our sincere wishes for your personal health and happiness and for the continued success of the Soviet people. Highest regards. [Signed] Captain Thomas Sankara, chairman of the CNR and head of state of Upper Volta.

Operation Exposes 'Obsolete' Military Equipment

AB071120 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Excerpt] The "Bold Union" maneuvers which began in the night of 4 November 1983 are continuing. In view of their realistic aspect, they are extremely trying for men and equipment. In fact, the maneuvers made it possible once again to expose the completely obsolete and unadapted state of the greater part of the materiel with which the previous reactionary regimes equipped our Armed Forces. It is recalled that the obsolete and heterogeneous materiel was either a paternalistic donation good only for entertaining illusions or acquired thanks to the sustained pressure applied by the skillful international arms dealers who paid handsome commissions to secure orders. All the acquisitions were made in an anarchic and irrational manner and were therefore not based on a scheme to equip the Army and increase its might. These maneuvers will undoubtedly contribute to strengthening the operational capabilities of our Armed Forces which were assigned by the previous irresponsible, passive, and reactionary regimes to the task of suppressing workers and at times, the so-called cattle thieves.

Unknown Man Killed Near CNR Headquarters

AB072200 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Statement to the press by Comrade Ernest Ouedraogo, the secretary of state at the Ministry of Interior and Security, on the death of a European on 3 November, made in Ouagadougou on 7 November — recorded]

[Text] Comrades of the press, I would like to begin by apologizing to our friends the television viewers and listeners for the delay in breaking the news to them. This was due to mishaps and missed appointments. In fact, on 3 November, at about 0100 in the morning, an individual of the white race was killed in the neighborhood of the Entente Council's Palace, which as you know is the headquarters of the National Council of the Revolution [CNR]. He was killed by the security forces. The documents found in the individual's possession lead to the assumption that he is of French nationality. The French Embassy was notified to collect the body and make arrangements for its repatriation. The French Embassy refused to take delivery of the victim and declined all responsibility for this body, because after checks, the French Embassy established with all certainty that the documents found in the possession of the individual did not belong to him, this is to say, that the individual was using an identity which was not his. In fact, the vice consul of France in Ouagadougou made telephone contact with the French citizen who has this identity, who was in good health somewhere in France, and who stated that he lost his identity papers some time ago. This is the reason why the French Embassy refused to collect the body. On the afternoon of 5 November, we proceeded with the burial of the individual. Some indications point out to us that the person in question enjoyed the complicity of some local elements, and the security services have set about to identify the accomplices.

This is what I have to say on this affair. What must be added is that we must ask ourselves a number of questions. In fact how did this individual manage to penetrate into Upper Volta? How was he able to live here without leaving any signs. We have searched everywhere. There is no trace of him in the record of hotels and no trace at the airport or with the airlines. And why is it that this person was found near the Entente Council Palaceat such a late hour when everyone knows the area has been closed to the public both day and night. These are among the number of questions which are rather intriguing. In any case [words indistinct] these events as being of extreme gravity. Investigations are underway, and we will throw full light on this affair. As I have told you, we have been asking ourselves a number of questions whose answers will certainly throw new light on the affair.

I would like to end by telling you that all these questions and many others that we have been asking ourselves have already enabled us to affirm that this person did not act alone. In addition to the assistance he received from his foreign employers, he enjoyed certainly some degree of local help. This is very serious. This is why, once more, we ask all patriots to redouble their vigilance and notify the security services of any suspicious person or group of persons engaged in reprehensive activites that are of a nature to disturb the peace of our country. The fatherland or death, we shall overcome.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Greets DPRK Leader on Anniversary

MB061030 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0700 GMT 6 Nov 83

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, has sent a message of congratulations to Kim Il-song, president of the DPRK, on the 38th anniversary of the founding of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK]. In his message, the Angolan head of state expressed his beliefs that the ties of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation which unite the people, parties, and governments of the two coutries will continue to be further strengthened at this time of rising aggression by the agents of imperialism against the Korean and Angolan peoples. This aggression is aimed at socioeconimic destabilization and the destruction of the revolution in the People's Republic of Angola, in addition to preventing the strengthening of the socialist society and reunification of Korea. Finally, Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos wished great success to the Korean people and government and the WPK Central Committee in the common struggle against imperialism and for freedom, peace, and social progress.

President Receives Message From CSSR Counterpart

MB071930 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0700 GMT 6 Nov 83

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the People's Republic of Angola, received in Luanda yesterday a message from Gustav Husak, president of the CSSR. The message was conveyed by Stanislav Svoboda, Czechoslovak deputy minister of foreign affairs. The ceremony, which was held at Futungo de Belas, was attended by Carlos Fernandes, secretary of state for cooperation.

AFP: UNITA Issues Statement on Recent Fighting

NC071746 Paris AFP in English 1719 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Lisbon, Nov 7 (AFP) — Angolan Government forces used 47,000 men to mount a huge operation against UNITA rebels in eight provinces, UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) said here today. A statement by the South African-backed rebels, who are led by Jonas Savimbi, said that they had killed 217 government soldiers during the operation and taken 138 prisoner.

An Angolan Government source in Geneva said yesterday that last week its troops practically wiped out UNITA's "second strategic front" in southwestern Angola, where 4,000 to 5,000 rebels were based. UNITA, which said it had begun a counterattack due to last until April, admitted to having lost 72 men so far, with another 118 wounded.

The rebels alleged that 35,000 government troops were fighting in the Provinces of Malanje, Cuanza Sul, Cuanza Norte, Benguela, Huila, Huambo, Bie and Cuando Cubango, alongside 8,000 Cubans, 3,000 members of the Namibian nationalist movement SWAPO and 1,000 members of the outlawed South African National Congress. UNITA said these troops had the support of 19 MIG and Antonov planes and 25 helicopters. The UNITA statement added that during September and October, 32 Soviet, Greek and Yugoslav ships delivered arms and equipment to three Angolan ports. This equipment included 42 armoured vehicles, 10 SA-8 missiles, 12 Mi-24 helicopters and four gunboats.

The rebels hit out at recent statements from southern African front-line states which they said were aimed at "intimidating foreign journalists wanting to visit parts of Angola liberated by UNITA." The statement said twelve journalists had been received by UNITA during the last three months and the movement was anxious to ensure press coverage of its offensive by anyone interested.

MADAGASCAR

Visiting GOSR Delegation Meets With Officials

MB071340 Antananarivo Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 4 Nov 83

[Excerpts] President of the National Assembly Lucien Andrianarahinjaka this afternoon received a Moldavian SSR delegation which is on a visit to Madagascar within the framework of the celebration of the Great October Socialist Revolution [GOSR]. The delegation is led by the chief minister of the Moldavian State Council, [name indistinct], and includes a member of the Central Committee of the Moldavian Communist Party and deputy of the Supreme Soviet, [name indistinct], and the rector of the University of Kishinev and deputy of the Supreme Soviet, Mr Melnik.

The president of the People's National Assembly recalled the ties of friendship and cooperation existing between the two countries. We know your country, Moldavia, quite well, Mr Andrianarahinjaka said. We spent (?1 week) with a Malagasy parliamentary delegation, and we know that you have worked a great deal toward establishing peace in the world. In reply, the head of the Soviet delegation referred to the celebration of the Soviet national day, which coincides with the consolidation of the Moldavian SSR this year. The meeting was also attended by the Soviet ambassador to Madagascar, His Excellency Mr Leonid Musatov.

The same delegation was also received this afternoon by the foreign minister, Mr Jean Bemananjara. The talks centered on friendly relations with foreign countries. The delegation has come to promote ties of friendhsip between the Moldavian SSR and Madagascar and to strengthen the (?Soviet acquaintance with Madagascar). On this, the head of the Moldavian SSR delegation dealt at length with the policy of the Soviet state and the CPSU, which is based on peace. Minister [name indistinct] reiterated his country's wish to promote peace internationally. We are still promoting peace, said Minister Jean Bemananjara. He stressed the mutual desire of the two countries to strengthen the relations of friendship between the two peoples, particularly in the exchanges of delegations. Minister Bemananjara expressed the hope that peace would accompany the development of Third World nations.

MOZAMBIQUE

Communique Issued on Machel European Tour

MB071144 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1100 GMT 6 Nov 83

[Communique on the visit by President Samora Machel to Europe issued by the Council of Ministers in Maputo on 4 November]

[Text] The Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Mozambique met on 4 November 1983 to assess the official and state visits made by the high-level delegation led by His Excellency Marshal Samora Moises Machel, president of the republic, to six European countries and the EEC Headquarters. The presidential delegation visited the Kingdom of Belgium, EEC Headquarters, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Portuguese Republic, the SFRY, the French Republic, and the United Kingdom 3-21 October 1983. These visits were within the framework of the foreign policy principles of the People's Republic of Mozambique — the materialization of the Frelimo Party guidelines and implementation as a socialist country of our policy of peace and nonalignment.

The Council of Ministers noted with great satisfaction that the fundamental objectives of these visits were achieved. They served to deepen our knowledge of those countries and to inform them about the political, economic, social, and cultural realities of the People's Republic of Mozambique, as well as our country's enormous potential. They also served to reiterate our people's identity and personality and our country's independence. These visits strengthened the existing relations between the nations and identified areas of reciprocal interest for the development of economic, trade, military, scientific and technical, and cultural cooperation. During the talks and meetings with businessmen, we established that it is in the interest of the People's Republic of Mozambique to cooperate with all countries on the basis of reciprocity of interests, equality, and mutual respect. We also established that there are advantages in cooperating with Mozambique and the independent countries of southern Africa.

The policy of peace and nonalignment of our nation, which is entrenched in the Constitution of the People's Republic of Mozambique, was stressed in every country visited by the delegation. The determination of the Mozambique people to preserve their independence, liquidate underdevelopment, and build a society based on equality, happiness, and prosperity was stressed. In this context, the situation in southern Africa and the destabilizing role of the criminal apartheid regime was widely analyzed. The presidential delegation exposed the hegemonic policy of racist South Africa in the region, which is characterized by colonial domination — to which it submits the Namibian people — the occupation of a part of the Angolan territory, aggression against the independent countries of southern Africa either directly or through the armed gangs, and economic blackmail. It was established that such an aggressive policy by South Africa is intended to internationalize the conflict between the racist minority and the South African people, thus transferring the internal contradictions of apartheid beyond the South African borders. It was proved that to invest in South Africa is to feed apartheid.

In this context, the delegation stressed the responsibility and role that the Western countries must play in the struggle for the elimination of the odious apartheid regime, which causes instability and war in our region. The presidential delegation exposed the backward nature of the minority apartheid regime, which has been historically condemned. Thus, it was stated that the stand of the People's Republic of Mozambique is that by directing investments, efforts, and capabilities toward cooperation with the countries of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, the very interests of the European countries are defended. The delegation stressed the responsibility and obligation of the Western countries in the search for a correct solution to the problems faced in southern Africa, particularly the independence of Namibia, the elimination of apartheid, the development of an atmosphere of peace and security in the region, and (?positive development). In this context the delegation stressed the specific obligation of the Western countries in supporting the Namibian people and SWAPO in their struggle for independence and the South African people and the ANC in their struggle to end apartheid in South Africa.

This broad exchange of views with the countries visited by the delegation established a solid base to deepen dialogue and develop cooperation in all sectors between the governments of the countries visited and the EEC, and the Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique. The presidential delegation wholeheartedly received the esteem shown by the peoples and governments of the countries it visited — an unequivocal demonstration of the friendship and solidarity of those peoples and governments with the people and Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique. The presidential delegation confirmed the esteem with which the countries it visited held the Mozambique people and the People's Republic of Mozambique in view of their firm stands on the establishment of an atmosphere of peace and cooperation among peoples throughout the world, particularly among the peoples of southern Africa. With great pleasure, the presidential delegation realized that the guiding principles of our cooperation policy were warmly welcomed in the countries it visited, thus opening new prospects for cooperation between Mozambique and those countries for the benefit of the respective peoples. Regarding the questions on southern Africa, the presidential delegation (?noted) the concern and receptivity expressed over the elimination of apartheid and the problems related to the development of the countries in our region.

The Council of Ministers hails the peoples and Governments of the Kingdom of Belguim, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Portuguese Republic, the SFRY, the French Republic, the United Kingdom, and the EEC for the warm welcome given to the Mozambique delegation led by his excellency the president of the People's Republic of Mozambique. The Council of Ministers hails the presidential delegation for the manner in which it represented the Mozambique people and their interests and aspirations. The Council of Ministers particularly hails President Samora Moises Machel who, in the countries visited by the delegation, expressed the correctness of the political stands of the People's Republic of Mozambique in favor of defense of peace and international security. It hails President Samora Machel for the unequivocal manner in which he unmasked the criminal nature of the apartheid regime, which causes war, instability, and (?insensibility) and threatens peace in our region and the world. Once again, President Samora Moises Machel displayed over a brief period of time his tremendous qualities as a stateman, who, thanks to his ingenuity and intelligence, has further heightened the international prestige of Mozambique.

The Council of Ministers considers the political achievements of the presidential visit to be very positive. The Council of Ministers is pleased with the cooperation agreements that have been established during these visits, which open new prospects for the development of relations of cooperation, friendship, and solidarity with the peoples and states visited by the delegation. The Council of Ministers stressed and hailed the contributions made by some of the countries visited by the delegation toward the strengthening of the defense capability of our country, which indicates a just assessment of the determination of the Mozambique people to defend their sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national independence. The Council of Ministers defined the ministries and secretariats of state responsible for the implementation of the agreements that have been established in order to continuously raise to higher levels the cooperation with the countries visited by the delegation within the framework of the implementation of the Fourth Frelimo Party Congress decisions.

The struggle continues.

SOUTH AFRICA

Prime Minister Speaks on Referendum Outcome

MB060847 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 6 Nov 83

[Text] The South African prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, says the white voters of South Africa proved, through the referendum held this week, that they are not racists. Mr Botha told his first public meeting after the referendum at Aliwal North that white voters proved that they wanted stability, economic advancement, and peaceful coexistence for all the people of the country. But, Mr Botha said, the new constitution could not be introduced overnight. It would need a lot of hard work.

The new constitution, which makes provision for Colored and Asian representation at the parliamentary level, would be introduced next year, but he would still conduct lengthy negotiations with the Coloreds and the Asians. Mr Botha said Colored leaders would also have to say whether they accepted the result of the referendum. They would also have to indicate whether they wanted a referendum or an election. If they did not want to be part of the new constitutional system, they would be shutting themselves out. The Asians had two choices. They could say no to the new constitution and remain where they were, or they could accept it and share in it. Referring to black leaders, Mr Botha said there were radical leaders who advocated murder and arson, but said they should not attempt violence. There were those who did not agree with the new constitution, because they were not consulted. But he would, nevertheless, continue to negotiate with them.

Mr Botha said that what pleased him about the result of the referendum was that it proved that there were enough voters in South Africa who — in a moment of crisis — were prepared to put the interests of their country first, and that was national unity.

Further Reaction to 2 Nov Referendum Outcome

PFP Acceptance 'With Regret'

MB040900 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1411 GMT 3 Nov 83

[By F. Krige]

[Text]Cape Town, Nov 3, SAPA — The leader of the opposition, Dr Frederick van Zyl Slabbert, said today he accepted the result of the referendum with regret and it was clear that a considerable number of PFP [Progressive Federal Party] supporters had voted yes. In a statement in Cape Town, he said it was a long and hard campaign in which the PFP did everything within its power to put its case. Nevertheless, the white "yes" vote won convincingly and he had to accept the result with regret.

"The government will have to decide for itself what the actual meaning of the yes majority is. Just as people voted no for differing and even conflicting reasons, so, too, they voted yes. From the beginning, I said that a simple yes/no question would result in more confusion than clarity. It is clear that a considerable number of PFP supporters voted yes. I believe this was mainly due to two general reasons that I often came across in the campaign. Firstly, because they feared an increase in right-wing support. The result has shown clearly that this fear was unfounded. Secondly, because they believe that reform is essential and that in spite of the flaws in the constitution which we have tried to identify, they still saw it as a step in the right direction. For their sake and for South Africa's sake, I hope that their wishes will not be frustrated."

"The spotlight now falls on the next phase of the implementation of the constitution. The government will have to establish what support and cooperation exists for this constitution amongst the Coloured and Asian groups. The government can immeasurably harm an already inadequate constitution if it is over-hasty in implementing the constitution without properly establishing Coloured and Asian support for it. Nothing can harm the credibility of the new constitution more should the government ignore this difficult challenge. Common sense says that at least the Coloured and Asians are entitled to a referendum such as the one that the whites have just had. Whatever the result of the government's attempts in the next phase of implementation, my fundamental objections and fears remain.

"I believe South Africa is entering a very difficult and challenging time and I believe that this constitution is not going to make it any easier for us to cope with these difficulties. Nevertheless, I believe that we must now act and think positively. The referendum for whites is over and done with. If the government interprets this result as a mandate for reform and despite the flaws in the constitution tries to initiate reforms, I believe it is the duty of the official opposition to support such momentum for reform. It is in this spirit that I will make recommendations at the forthcoming meetings of the Federal Executive and National Congress of the PFP.

"We have fought this constitution step by step and with deep conviction. If the government, despite our objections and other obstacles, succeeds in receiving such cooperation and support from the Coloured and Asians that it implements the new constitution, then I will recommend that the PFP try and make the best of the situation under the new circumstances and that we carry on fighting for the principles and ideals in which we believed. No matter how difficult this may be, we must try and prevent racial confrontation and explore all possibilities for peaceful and evolutionary change," he said.

CP Rejection

MB040819 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1330 GMT 3 Nov 83

[By Mark van der Velden]

[Text] Pretoria, Nov 3, SAPA — The Conservative Party [CP] regarded the referendum result as a mere battle in the total struggle of the people, Dr Andries Treurnicht, leader of the CP, said today. "We definitely do not accept the result as the final choice of a people who want to maintain their freedom," he said at a press conference in Pretoria shortly after the massive "yes" vote was announced at the Union Buildings. "The struggle to undo the new constitution begins today."

The nearly 700,000 "no" votes was extraordinarily favourable if the imbalance in the propaganda was taken into account. This imbalance was namely that the television and radio services, and all the Afrikaans newspapers had orchestrated against the "no" vote.

"It also means that ignorance of the real implications of the new constitution was an important factor in favour of the "yes" vote. When the new constitution is implemented, the dangerous implications which are not realized now will fully come to light," Dr Treurnicht said.

It was clear that large numbers of Progressive Federal Party supporters had voted "yes" and placed the existence of their own party in the balance by doing so. "As far as we are concerned, the nearly 700,000 "no" votes are a very firm base on which the freedom of the whites will be won again," Dr Treurnicht said. The CP stood for full rights of each nation, but was convinced this could only be realised on a basis of separate development and a separate constitutional dispensation for each one.

Asked whether he forsaw an amalgamation of the CP and the Herstigte Nasionale Party [HNP], Dr Treurnicht said he was in favour of a combination of conservative forces in South Africa, and that consultation in this regard would have to take place. It was possible the CP and the HNP would join forces in spite of personality clashes and policy differences, he said.

HNP Statement

MB040904 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1420 GMT 3 Nov 83

[By R. Faure]

[Text] Pretoria, Nov 3, SAPA — The "yes" vote in the referendum on the proposed new constitution could hardly be described as a triumph for the National Party [NP], the leader of the Herstigte Nasionale Party [HNP], Mr Jaap Marais, said in a statement in Pretoria today. "The outcome was heavily influenced by the massive and costly propaganda campaign waged by the National Party, which exploited fears and ignorance, rather than advocated the essential features of its policy of multi-racial government," Mr Marais said. "The prime minister did not even balk at the idea of using the ludicrous argument that a 'no' vote was in support of the African National Congress, which showed to what depths the political debate was dragged in in order to frighten off 'no' voters."

Never before had the government control of radio and television been so "unashamedly misused" for National Party propaganda in every possible way, he charged. "The result is a victory, not for the National Party policy of multi-racial government, but for the unscrupulous politics of the money powers in collaboration with its present handmaiden, the National Party of Mr P.W. Botha. "This type of costly campaign will probably become a permanent feature of the National Party's way of electioneering and opposition parties will have to find means of countering it," Mr Marais added.

Mr Marais said there was a concealed factor in the registered counting of votes, which was all but favourable for the National Party. "By lumping strong NP constituencies together with constituencies where the NP is weak, the real situation is not brought to light except for the Pietersburg area and, for example, the Pretoria area. Counting shows that by far the majority constituencies in this region have become marginal seats, except for perhaps Waterkloof, Rissik, Sunnyside, Pretoria East and Pretoria Central. The 'yes' majority in each of the constituencies would in every other instance have been less than 2,000 and, in several constituencies such as Pretoria West, Hercules, Innesdal, Wonderboom, Brits, Bethal, Ermelo, Nelspruit, Barbeon, Witbank, Middelburg and Rustenburg, there can be little doubt that the possibility of a 'no' majority cannot be discounted. In fact, in a general election it is very doubtful whether the NP could win the Transvaal against a combined CP-HNP alliance," Mr Marais said.

Whatever the "yes" majority in the referendum was, it was clear the combined force of the rightwing "no" vote was strong enough to stop the government, as the Middelburg by-election had showed. The referendum result would inevitably lead to some soul-searching in opposition parties and would probably lead to new alignments, the HNP leader predicted.

Commenting on the result of the Middelburg by-election, Mr Marais said it was "lamentable" that the Conservative Party [CP] had rejected a proposal that it withdraw from the election or that both the HNP and the CP withdraw, giving the NP a hollow victory. "If Dr Treurnicht (the CP leader) had accepted either of these proposals, the outcome of the referendum would have been markedly different. There can be no doubt that joint meetings addressed by the HNP and CP leaders would have infused enthusiasm and drive on the part of the rightwing 'no' vote that would have greatly countered the 'yes' votes costly campaign," Mr Marais said.

Buthelezi: 'Tragic' Results

MB041430 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 4 Nov 83 p 2

[By Anton Harber, political reporter]

[Text] Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, the Chief Minister of Kwazulu, suggested yesterday that it might be possible for his Inkatha organisation to form a "marriage of convenience" with the banned African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress in the wake of the referendum result. Chief Buthelezi was one of a number of black leaders to react with anger to the referendum result announced yesterday.

The United Democratic Front (UDF), the Azanian People's Organisation (AZAPO), the Transvaal Indian Congress (TIC) and the Transvaal Anti-PC Committee were among those who warned that the result would mean on-going conflict in South Africa and it paved the way for more violence.

But the "Yes" vote was welcomed by the Reverend Allan Hendrickse, leader of the Labour Party, Mr Achmad Rajbansi, chairman of the SA Indian Council, Paramount Chief Patrick Mphephu, president of Venda, Mr Lennox Sebe, president of the Ciskei, and Mr Steve Kgame, chairman of the Urban Community Council Association of SA.

Chief Buthelezi told the kwaZulu Legislative Assembly that it was plain that "the road of a negotiated future we have traversed in this House and as Inkatha is closed for the moment to us, unless, of course, a miracle occurs." He said blacks could only succeed in bringing whites to their knees if they were united in using their "worker power" and their "consumer power." He said he was appealing to ANC President Mr Oliver Tambo and to Mr John Pokhele, the leader of the PAC. "They must know that what has been done presents us as Africans with a new ball game, whether we join the violent strategy of the PAC and the ANC or the nonviolent strategy of Inkatha," he said.

The UDF said the implementation of the constitution would set the scene for "a vast and tragic conflict" and responsibility for this would lie on the shoulders of the Government and those who supported its policies. Its implementation would depend to a great extent on the support of some segments of the black communities and the UDF believed the vast majority of these communities would reject participation in "the so-called new dispensation." The UDF was determined to ensure it was not implemented.

Dr Ismael Mohammed, chairman of the Transvaal Anti-PC Committee, said the result demonstrated the commitment of white voters to white minority rule and the oppressive apartheid system. TIC leader Dr Essop Jassat said the result of the referendum was not surprising since change would only come from the oppressed people themselves and not the whites. The Indian community would have nothing to do with "Botha's proposals." AZAPO spokesman Mr Ishmael Makhabela said the country had witnessed another "racist and fascist international public relations circus." "Our agenda in the struggle remains unaltered, as does our commitment to establishing a political and economic order which will best serve the interests of a unitary Azania," he said.

Mr Hendrickse said he was impressed and encouraged by the result. The high percentage poll indicated that whites had taken the matter seriously and the high "yes" vote showed that the majority favoured moving away from the present political system. The President of the Association of Urban Councils of South Africa, Mr Steve Kgame, said it was evident from the result that the majority of whites in South Africa were ready for political change, not only for the benefit of coloureds and Indians but also for blacks.

UDF Statement

MB041225 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1908 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Text] Cape Town, Nov 3, SAPA — The United Democratic Front said today that the large white vote for the new constitution showed many whites were not interested in positive change. A statement by the UDF executive in Cape Town said the nationalist plan was backed by only a million people out of the South African population of 30 million.

The UDF campaign against the constitution was going into the "second phase" of seeking Coloured and Indian rejection of the plan. The referendum results were "peripheral" because the issue involved did not address South Africa's political problems.

The results would create a false sense of strength for the prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, because of the illusion that he enjoyed the support of a majority of South Africans. "That would be dangerously misleading because only a little more than one million white voters voted for this constitution." Considering the number of whites who voted against it, those who did not vote at all, and the number of spoilt papers, the UDF did not believe Mr Botha could claim majority support for the proposed constitution.

"The people of South Africa are more than 30 million today. That a large number of whites voted for the new constitution act can only mean that many of them are still not interested in positive change.

This will result in the intensification of existing government policies, homelands, mass removals, continual inequitable distribution of wealth, a further shortage of housing, a hardening of attitudes between those who are privileged and in power and those who are denied full life and more racial divisions, all of which are seeds of deepening racial and violent conflict. This could quite easily mean that our country is on the path towards the Rhodesia of Smith's last days. We hope that that can still be averted," the statement said.

Colored Leaders Comment

MB040914 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1938 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Text] Cape Town, Nov 3, SAPA — Coloured leaders today welcomed the sign that whites wanted change, but warned that the Coloured community would not be satisfied until hurtful and humiliating apartheid laws were scrapped. The leader of the Labour Party, the Rev Alan Hendrickse, said the referendum result underlined the rationality of white voters and it was a clear indication that they were prepared to allow other races to participate in the political process "however limited." His party wanted a Coloured referendum and this issue would be decided by its national congress at Port Elizabeth in January. Mr Hendrickse said he would hold discussions with the government "after a breathing space."

The leader of the People's Congress Party, Mr Peter Marais, said the result showed that the prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, could never again use the threat of a right-wing backlash as an obstacle to reform. Although whites had shown that they were not yet in favour of a completely open South African society, they were also not in favour of "regression politics." The result was "a resounding victory" for the principle of change, he said, and a clear majority for the reform initiative of giving attention to the task of repealing all hurtful and discriminating laws directed against people.

"Such a declaration of intent could see a complete realignment in South African politics even across colour lines and place South Africa on the road to full acceptance by the international community. The road ahead will be leading towards our ultimate goal of a racial-free society, but the speed at which this takes place will depend on the statesmanship of opposition parties and the willingness of the government to see that justice is done." Mr Marais said he would seek discussions with the government.

Mr Franklin Sown, president of the United Teachers Associations of South Africa (the umbrella body of the organised Coloured teaching profession) said the referendum result "could be a significant event" if the "yes" majority meant whites wanted to see apartheid out of the way and all people included in the mainstream political system. However, he warned the government "never to underestimate the depth of the Coloured peoples feeling against apartheid." "We are in no mood for superficial adaptations and will only be satisfied with apartheid buried in the unpleasant history of South Africa."

UK's Rifkind Arrives To Discuss Regional Issues

MB060840 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1230 GMT 5 Nov 83

[Text] Mr Malcolm Rifkind, British minister of state responsible for African affairs, says the Angolan Government sees the presence of Cuban troops in that country as an internal matter and regrets that the issue is being discussed by other countries. Mr Rifkind arrived at Jan Smuts Airport this morning after visiting Angola and Zimbabwe. He said Britain continues to hold the in South-West Africa, although it is clear that the withdrawal of the Cubans from Angola would facilitate the solution of problems in southern Africa. Mr Rifkind will hold discussions in Pretoria on Monday with Mr Pik Botha, the minister of foreign affairs, and the deputy minister, Mr Barend du Plessis. He will also meet business and community leaders.

Holds Talks With Ministers

MB071601 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] The British minister of state responsible for Africa, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, has held talks with several South African cabinet members in Pretoria today. Mr Rifkind is on an orientation visit to South Africa and has already visited Angola and Zimbabwe. This morning he held talks with the South African minister of internal affairs, Mr F.W. de Klerk, and the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Roelof Botha. He also held a working lunch with the deputy minister of foreign affairs, Mr Barend du Plessis, and later had discussions with the minister of cooperation and development, Dr Piet Koornhoof.

SAPA: ANC Representative Leaves Lesotho

MB071607 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1454 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] Maseru, Nov 7, SAPA — A representative of the African National Congress in Lesotho, Mr Maro Maro, left Lesotho at the weekend. He flew to Mozambique on his way to Lusaka, where the ANC has its headquarters. His departure is part of the present move to remove certain ANC refugees from Lesotho because they allegedly pose a threat to South Africa's security, SAPA's correspondent reports.

Their removal has been interpreted by observers here as part of Lesotho's efforts to normalise the strained relations between Lesotho and South Africa. The Lesotho minister of information and broadcasting, Mr Desmond Sixishe, contacted by SAPA for comment, confirmed that Mr Maro had left the country. But he said Mr Maro's departure was "merely part of an ongoing move of refugees from the country that began in July after negotiations with the United Nations on the refugee question."

The South African authorities imposed strict border controls earlier this year as a tough measure against the presence of ANC refugees in Lesotho.

ZAMBIA

President Calls for Closer Ties With Congo

MB080752 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] President Kaunda has called for closer cooperation between Zambia and the Congo. Dr Kaunda made the call in Lusaka today when he received a special message from member of the Central Committee and secretary general, the chairman of the Congolese Central Committee, Mr (Kamile Bongo), at State House. [sentence as heard] He said it is Zambia's desire to build cooperation with the Congolese Government, adding that the Zambian leadership has great love and respect for Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso. The president said Zambia takes its same revolutionary stand on issues of the Polisario Front, of Africa, the Middle East, and wherever man is oppressed. In reply, Mr (Bongo) payed tribute to President Kaunda on his reelection to office, which he said is a testimony of the confidence the Zambian people attach to his leadership.

ZIMBABWE

Banana Congratulates Andropov on Anniversary

MB080835 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 8 Nov 83

[Text] The president, Comrade Canaan Banana, has praised the Soviet Union for its unwavering stand against the forces of imperialism and colonialism. Comrade Banana made the commendation in a congratulatory message to the Soviet leader, Comrade Yuriy Andropov, on the occasion of his country's 66th anniversary of the Great October Revolution yesterday. The president expressed confidence that the progressive socialist revolution will win battles against imperialism and colonialism which continue to threaten world peace and security. Comrade Banana also voiced satisfaction at the good relations which exist between Moscow and Harare.

U K Minister Discusses Aid, Meetings With Leaders

MB061123 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 6 Nov 83

[Text] The British Government will make sure that the Zimcord [expansion unknown] aid pledge will be forthcoming to Zimbabwe without delay. The British minister of state for foreign and commonwealth office, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, said there are tremendous benefits to be accrued from his country's aid by Zimbabwe, and he is satisfied with the way the aid is being utilized. In an interview in Harare yesterday, before his departure to South Africa, Mr Rifkind said he will be happy to find out ways in which to improve the procedure to speed up aid to Zimbabwe. The minister said he held a number of meetings with Prime Minister Comrade Robert Mugabe, Foreign Minister Comrade Witness Mangwende, and other government ministers. He described the talks as constructive, friendly, and agreeable. Mr Rifkind said he hoped to see Namibia independent as soon as possible. He is expected to hold official talks on Namibia during his 4-day stay in South Africa. Mr Rifkind has already been to Angola as part of his familiarization tour, continuing [the] process of ministerial contacts to discuss bilateral and regional problems in southern Africa.

Muzorewa Hunger Strike Continues; Son Detained

MB071245 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1100 GMT 7 Nov 83

[Text] The son of former Zimbabwe leader Abel Muzorewa has reportedly been detained in Harare. A spokesperson for the United African National Council, Walter Mthimkhulu, says Philemon Muzorewa has been forced into a car and driven away from his Harare home. Mthimkhulu says the car's registration has been checked and has been identified as a vehicle belonging to the Zimbabwe Central Intelligence Organization. Philemon Muzorewa was detained for several weeks earlier this year, and police said they found unlicenced firearms at his home. He was later released without being charged.

Meanwhile, Abel Muzorewa is on the 7th day of a hunger strike. The former Zimbabwe leader has taken no food or liquids since being detained last Monday by the Zimbabwe Government on suspicion of subversive activities. Members of his family visited him yesterday in an attempt to plead with him to go off the hunger strike but they say Muzorewa was adamant about it. Family sources say the bishop had lost weight and, in their words, did not look good. In another development, the Zimbabwean *HERALD* newspaper has described Muzorewa's hunger strike as simply another publicity stunt.